

## GOV'T FUNDED

*Congress passes spending deal, bids to avert shutdown*

This Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, file photo shows the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MATTHEW DALY**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Moving to head off a government shutdown that neither party wants, Congress has overwhelmingly approved a compromise spending bill and pledged agreement on a short-term bill to fund the government through early December. The House on Thursday ap-

proved a \$147 billion package to fund the Energy Department, veterans' programs and the legislative branch. The 377-20 vote came a day after the Senate passed the measure, 92-5. The bill now goes to White House, where President Donald Trump is expected to sign it. The quick action in the House and Senate came

as legislative leaders announced agreement on a bill to fund the rest of the government through Dec. 7. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the short-term plan would be added to a separate spending bill that lawmakers are negotiating to cover the Defense Department and labor,

health and education programs. The stopgap bill would not address Trump's long-promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. GOP leaders have said they prefer to resolve the issue after the Nov. 6 elections. It was not clear whether Trump would back this approach, but a Republican aide said the White House

had not indicated any immediate opposition. The bill approved Thursday was the first of three spending measures Congress hopes to approve this month to avoid a government shutdown when the new budget year begins Oct. 1.

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# U.S., Cuba meet on mysterious 'health attacks' in Havana

By **MATTHEW LEE**

**AP Diplomatic Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

As American authorities search for answers into mysterious "health attacks" that began two years ago in Havana, U.S. and Cuban officials met Thursday to renew efforts to determine the method and motive behind incidents that have left some diplomats with brain injuries.

The talks at the State Department came as national security agencies and members of Congress express frustration about the lack of answers about what the U.S. says were deliberate attacks on some two dozen staffers at the U.S. Embassy in the Cuban capital. Recent reports have suggested investigators have narrowed their suspicions about the cause and culprit, although State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert denied that any conclusions had been drawn about either. "We still don't know the cause, we still don't know what or who is responsible for health attacks that took place that affected our



In this Oct. 3, 2017, file photo, tourists ride classic convertible cars on the Malecon beside the United States Embassy in Havana, Cuba.

personnel in Cuba," she told reporters.

Cuba officials scheduled a news conference Thursday evening to discuss developments.

Earlier, Cuba's foreign ministry said nine members of the scientific team it assembled to look into the incidents met with U.S. lawmakers and the National Academy of Sciences be-

fore the talks.

The Cuban Embassy said the team was proposing "a dispassionate examination of health reports of U.S. diplomats in Cuba according to the rules of science."

Nauert did not address the Cuban comments and said the meeting "involves private medical information that is coming forth from some of our people."

She and other officials have previously played down or denied reports that investigators have focused on a microwave device as the source of the attacks and that Russia is the leading suspect.

Those reports have raised protests from Cuba, which

does not dispute the symptoms but insists there is no evidence to support any assertion that they were caused by premeditated attacks on its soil. Cuba has repeatedly denounced the U.S. accusations as politically motivated and unproven.

Twenty-five U.S. Embassy workers in Cuba, as well as one at the U.S. consulate in Guangzhou, China, have been affected by mysterious health incidents that began in the fall of 2016. The range of symptoms and diagnoses includes mild traumatic brain injury, also known as concussion.

The last case from Havana was confirmed in June. The

U.S. said two embassy staffers were affected in a single occurrence in late May in a diplomatic residence at which both officers were present. Those were the first confirmed cases in Havana since August 2017.

One U.S. official said Thursday's meeting was organized after Cuba complained that Washington has withheld important details about the affected Americans' medical conditions. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. In congressional testimony last week, State Department medical personnel suggested they had shared more information with China about the incident in Guangzhou than they had with the Cubans about what has happened in Havana.

In two classified briefings with congressional aides and lawmakers last week, the officials repeated that they had not come to any conclusions about what caused the injuries or who might be responsible for them, according to officials familiar with the meetings. Initial speculation had centered on some type of sonic attack, owing to strange sounds heard by those affected. But an interim FBI report in January found no evidence that sound waves could have caused the damage. [q](#)

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## FEMA head denies intentionally misusing federal vehicles

By **COLLEEN LONG**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The head of the government's disaster relief agency said Thursday he never intentionally misused federal vehicles, following a report he was under investigation by the Homeland Security Department's internal watchdog.

Brock Long discussed the investigation, first reported by Politico, at a briefing on Hurricane Florence, saying he would cooperate and own up to any mistakes.

"Doing something unethical is not part of my DNA and it's not part of my track record in my whole entire career," said Long, who leads the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Long said the inspector general was looking into vehicle usage, but he didn't confirm that the review concerned his use of an official vehicle. Politico reported Long was under investigation for possibly misusing government resources and personnel on

weekend trips home to Hickory, North Carolina.

Tyler Houlton, a spokesman for Homeland Security, FEMA's parent agency, referred questions to the inspector general's office, which didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Houlton said in a statement that Homeland Security is "fully focused on preparing for, responding to, and recovering from Hurricane Florence and the storms in the Pacific." [□](#)



# Congress passes spending deal, bids to avert shutdown

Continued from Front

Passage was so important to Republican leaders that they moved up the Senate vote, citing the threat of Hurricane Florence bearing down on the southeast coast. The House and Senate both adjourned for the week immediately following the budget votes.

Approval of the spending bill marked a departure from recent years, when Congress routinely ignored agency-specific spending measures in favor of massive packages that funded the entire government at once. Trump has said he would not sign another bloated bill.

The three compromise spending plans, if passed by Congress and signed by Trump, would account for nearly 90 percent of annual federal spending, including the military and most civilian agencies.

"This package is not perfect, but that is the nature of compromise," said Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Leahy said he was concerned that the bill did not do enough to cover costs associated with a program that allows veterans to receive government-paid health care at private facilities.

Across the Capitol, Rep. Mark Walker said he and other conservatives were disappointed by the absence of policy add-ons that were in a House-passed version before budget negotiations with the Senate.

"House Republican priorities were shut out across the board," said Walker, R-N.C. He said conservatives expect the next round of budget talks to reflect their policy priorities. If not, it will be "difficult to support this funding," Walker said.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., disputed Walker's characterization. "I think we got a great amount of victories for our members," Ryan said.

Ryan said the bill includes money for veterans' health care, military infrastructure, the electrical grid and nuclear weapons programs, and "represents a return to our most basic responsibility around here: passing appropriation bills."

While generally upbeat about the progress on spending legislation, lawmakers from both parties are wary of a government shutdown, which Trump has threatened unless he gets billions of dollars for the wall.

"We still are in favor of the wall, we still want to get funding for the wall, but we think the best time to have that discussion is after the election," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told Fox News.

McConnell, R-Ky., said there's "zero" chance of a government shutdown.

Even so, Trump held out the possibility of a shutdown, citing the need to protect the nation's border by following through on his signature campaign promise. "If it happens, it happens," Trump said last week. "If it's about border security, I'm willing to do anything."

With Republicans running the White House and both chambers of Congress, GOP leaders worry that voters would blame them for a shutdown, worsening the party's prospects for retaining congressional control amid an anticipated "blue wave" for Democrats.

The White House in a statement said Trump looks forward to signing the spending package, adding that it "aligns with many of the administration's priorities." The three-bill bundle includes:

— \$97.1 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction, including a \$1.1 billion increase to pay for a law Trump signed to give veterans more freedom to see doctors outside the troubled VA system.

— \$44.6 billion for energy and water programs, including programs to ensure nuclear stockpile readiness and spur innovation in en-

ergy research. The bill also funds flood-control projects and addresses regional ports and waterways.

— \$4.8 billion for the legislative branch, including Congress and the Capitol police. The bill omits several partisan policy riders approved by the House, including one that would have repealed an Obama-era clean water rule and another to limit spillovers at dams in the Pacific Northwest to protect salmon. The bill also eliminates funding for a long-stalled nuclear waste dump at Nevada's Yucca Mountain. □



House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis., center, talks with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Calif., left, while House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., speaks during a news conference, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, in Washington.

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# Senator gives federal investigators information on Kavanaugh

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Thursday she has notified federal investigators about information she received — and won't disclose publicly — concerning Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh.

The California Democrat said in a statement that she "received information from an individual concerning the nomination." She said the person "strongly requested confidentiality, declined to come forward or press the matter further, and I have honored that decision."

The FBI confirmed that it received the information Wednesday evening and included it in Kavanaugh's background file, which is maintained as part of his nomination. The agency said that is its standard process.

A Senate Democratic aide and another person familiar with the matter said it referred to an incident that occurred while Kavanaugh was high-school age. The two spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter.

The details of the alleged incident and the identity of the person who provided the information were unclear.

The White House called Feinstein's move an "11th hour attempt to delay his confirmation."

The Judiciary Committee, which has finished confirmation hearings for Kavanaugh, is scheduled to vote next Thursday on whether to recommend that he be confirmed by the full Senate.

Feinstein's statement that she has "referred the matter to federal investigative authorities" jolted Capitol Hill and threatened to disrupt what has been a steady path toward confirmation for Kavanaugh by Republicans eager to see the conservative judge on



Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, left, accompanied by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the ranking member, right, speaks during a Senate Judiciary Committee markup meeting on Capitol Hill, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press

the court.

Feinstein has held the letter close. Democratic senators on the panel met privately Wednesday evening and discussed the information, according to Senate aides who were not authorized to discuss the situation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some senators, including the No. 2 Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, learned about the information for the first time at the meeting, according to one of the aides. Durbin told the senators they needed to bring the matter to the FBI, the aide said.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has not had access to the letter but said he believes the Judiciary Committee is handling it appropriately, his office said.

On Thursday, Feinstein declined to answer questions outside the hearing room, and other senators' offices largely deferred to her.

A spokeswoman for Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., declined to confirm reports that the congresswoman had forwarded a letter containing the allegations to Feinstein. She said her office has a confidentiality policy regarding casework for constituents.

A White House spokeswoman, Kerri Kupec, said the FBI has vetted Kavanaugh "thoroughly and repeated-

ly" during his career in government and the judiciary. She said Kavanaugh has had 65 meetings with senators — including with Feinstein — sat through over 30 hours of testimony and publicly addressed more than 2,000 questions. "Not until the eve of his confirmation has Sen. Feinstein or anyone raised the specter of new 'information' about him," she said.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Republican and a member of the committee, was also skeptical.

"Let me get this straight: this is (sic) statement about secret letter regarding a secret matter and an unidentified person. Right," he tweeted.

Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, was unaware of the information until it was made public, according to a GOP committee aide. Kavanaugh has undergone six federal background checks over time in government, including one most recently for the nomination, the aide said.

The new information on Kavanaugh was included Thursday in his confidential background file at the committee and is now available for senators to review, the aide said.

Democrats don't have the votes to block Kavanaugh's nomination if Republicans are unified, but they are

fighting it and decrying the process that Republicans used to compile his government records for review.

At the committee Thursday, Republicans brushed aside a flurry of Democratic attempts to delay the consideration of Kavanaugh or subpoena more documents, sticking with a schedule that could see him confirmed by Oct. 1, when the new court session begins.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., protested that the nomination will be "tainted" and "stained" by the unusual process for vetting the nominee.

"We lack the time. We lack the documents." He called it a "badly broken process." Feinstein had sought a subpoena for documents from Kavanaugh's time as President George W. Bush's staff secretary. She said senators "should be able to see this record" and wondered, "What in Judge Kavanaugh's records are Republicans hiding?"

The Republicans have declined to pursue Kavanaugh's staff secretary documents, saying it would be too cumbersome. They rejected Feinstein's motion and several others, including motions to subpoena documents and witnesses and a motion to adjourn. Grassley set the panel's vote on Kavanaugh for Sept. 20.

New documents released ahead of Thursday's meeting included Kavanaugh's 263-page written response to questions from senators, along with 28 files from the judge's work in the Bush White House that had been available to senators only on a "committee confidential basis." Democratic Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey made the Bush documents public.

Among the details in the new written responses, Kavanaugh says he would have shaken the hand of a school shooting victim's father during a break in last week's Senate hearing had he recognized him before being whisked away by security detail.

The documents released by Booker, meanwhile, show Kavanaugh's involvement in Bush's nomination of Charles Pickering to an appellate court in the South as Pickering faced questions about his views on race relations. Kavanaugh had indicated in 2006 testimony that he was not substantially involved in the nomination.

In releasing a new batch of committee confidential documents about Kavanaugh, Booker was repeating a tactic that could prompt a review from the Senate Ethics Committee.

Booker's GOP colleagues and outside groups are criticizing him for releasing the documents. Last week, he released some documents that were later made public by the committee, but also others that weren't. Wednesday's disclosure brings the total to 75.

The conservative group Judicial Watch delivered a letter Wednesday to the Senate Ethics Committee seeking an investigation. It says Booker violated Senate rules against disclosing confidential documents and could face Senate expulsion.

Booker has welcomed the fight. He says the documents about Kavanaugh's work "raise more serious and concerning questions" about his honesty during his testimony before the committee. □



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evacuate as gas blasts  
destroy homes**By **PHILIP MARCELO**

**LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP)** — A series of gas explosions left at least four people injured and ignited fires in at least 39 homes in three communities north of Boston on Thursday, forcing entire neighborhoods to evacuate as crews scrambled to fight fires and turn off gas and electric lines to prevent further damage. Massachusetts State Police urged all residents with homes serviced by Columbia Gas in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover to evacuate Thursday afternoon, snarling traffic and causing widespread confusion as residents and local officials struggled to understand what was happening.

A man whose neighborhood was among dozens that erupted in fire says he ran into his basement to find that the room was glowing. Lawrence resident Ra Nam says he was in his yard when the smoke detector in his basement went off around 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

When he ran downstairs and saw the boiler on fire, he quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher and put it out. Minutes later, Nam said he heard a loud boom from his neighbor's house and the ground shook. Nam said a woman and two kids had made it out of the house but the basement was on fire.

Lawrence General Hospital said it was treating four victims with injuries related to the fires but did not provide details about their conditions.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management

Agency blamed the fires on gas lines that had become over-pressurized, but officials who responded to the area were still investigating the cause. State officials said Columbia Gas was working to ease pressure on gas lines following the fires.

Columbia had announced earlier Thursday that it would be upgrading gas lines in neighborhoods across the state, including the area where the explosions happened. It was not clear whether work was happening there Thursday, and a spokeswoman did not immediately return calls.

Reached by phone, some local officials described scenes of panic as residents rushed to evacuate, many wondering if their homes would be next to erupt in flames. In North Andover, town selectman Phil Decologero said his entire neighborhood had gathered in the street, afraid to enter their homes. Just a few streets down, he said, homes were burning.

"It's definitely a scary situation at the moment," he said. "It's pretty severe."

Aerial footage of the area showed some homes that appeared to be torn apart by blasts. At one, the upper portion of a brick chimney crushed an SUV parked in the driveway.

Schools and senior citizen centers were being opened as gathering points for residents who fled their homes. Lawrence City Councilor Marc Laplante said entire neighborhoods were being evacuated in the Colonial Heights area, which he represents. □



Firefighters battle a house fire, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, on Herrick Road in North Andover, Mass., one of multiple emergency crews responding to a series of gas explosions and fires triggered by a problem with a gas line that feeds homes in several communities north of Boston.

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## Puerto Rican evacuees hunt for housing as vouchers expire

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER** and **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**  
**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Like

many Puerto Ricans who fled to the mainland after Hurricane Maria, Jose Santiago has been scrambling to find a place to live. The federal vouchers that pay for his hotel room near the Orlando airport expire at checkout time Friday.

He has visited apartment complexes, but his name gets put on waiting lists. He has applied for assistance for apartment housing from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but it won't give him any money unless he has a lease. And he can't sign a lease without money for a deposit and first and last months' rent.

Santiago, 40, can afford to pay only \$500 to \$800 a month with his job driving cars for an auction house. At this point, he's ready to just rent a room to put a roof over his head.

"At that amount, it's difficult," Santiago, whose tidy hotel room has a cooking range and refrigerator, said in Spanish. "It's not impossible, but it's very difficult."

The clock began ticking late last month for hundreds of Puerto Rican evacuees who rely on federal assistance to pay for hotel rooms. A federal judge in Massachusetts set Friday as the deadline for the vouchers to end after denying an effort to force FEMA to continue the program. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Timothy Hillman, who expressed anguish over his decision, ended almost three months of legal



In this Monday, Sept. 10, 2018, photo, Idalis Fernandez walks to her hotel room provided by FEMA with her son Adrian, 2, at the Baymont Inn in Kissimmee, Fla.

Associated Press

challenges and extensions. As of Tuesday, there were more than 600 families using the vouchers on the mainland, with more than half of those families in Florida. Almost 400 families were using the vouchers on the island.

The judge's decision is forcing Idalis Fernandez to split up her family. Her husband and 2-year-old son, Adrian, are heading back to Puerto Rico where family members can watch the boy and her husband has a job lined up. She is staying in Florida, where she has work as a line cook at Walt Disney World, and where the couple's oldest son, 11-year-old Alexander, is doing well in school.

Finding an apartment has been difficult, she said, since many rental companies require that she earn

three times her monthly rent.

"I have nothing in Puerto Rico. At least I can stay here and work," Fernandez, 28, said in Spanish as she held Adrian outside a motel in Orlando's tourist district.

FEMA hasn't done enough for the evacuees, forcing local governments and organizations to step up, advocates say.

"Now the location (the families) chose in a moment of deep urgency and disaster is affecting their ability to find housing. This is exactly what we were trying to avoid," said Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, a lawyer with LatinoJustice PRLDEF, which brought the lawsuit against FEMA.

FEMA, amid preparations for Hurricane Florence to hit the mid-Atlantic, didn't

respond to an email this week seeking comment. But the agency has said it has provided a variety of housing options for people left homeless by Hurricane Maria, which hit Puerto Rico head-on nearly a year ago. It has also dismissed suggestions that the evacuees were being treated differently from those displaced by hurricanes in Texas and Florida last year.

FEMA said in a court filing last month that Puerto Rico has received \$3.9 billion in assistance for Hurricane Maria, compared with \$2.4 billion for Texas for Hurricane Harvey and \$1.1 billion for Florida for Hurricane Irma.

In central Florida, the local United Way is offering up to \$5,000 toward security deposits for some families. In New York City, more than

540 Puerto Rican evacuees are already in the city shelter system, and 30 other families may end up there after their hotel vouchers end.

Massachusetts, the state with the second largest number of evacuee families after Florida, will allow families with children and people with medical conditions to remain in hotels temporarily on the state's dime, said Gina Plata-Nino, an attorney with the Central West Justice Center. The state will also provide some housing assistance for certain families to help them move into more permanent homes, she said.

But more than two dozen households in Massachusetts who don't qualify for the state program will become homeless Friday, Plata-Nino said.

U.S. Rep. Darren Soto, whose staffers held office hours at three central Florida hotels this week to assist evacuees, put the blame on President Donald Trump and a Republican-dominated Congress that did not pass supplemental disaster relief assistance.

"President Trump, to this day, has not acknowledged, not only the lack of resources and slow response time, but the continued issues in Puerto Rico," said Soto, a Democrat whose district covers a part of metro Orlando. "It didn't have to be this way." Trump this week called the response to Hurricane Maria "an incredible, unsung success" and said his administration did an "underappreciated great job." □



# Gunman kills ex-wife, 4 others and himself in California

By **JOHN ANTCHAK and AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A gunman in Southern California fatally shot his ex-wife and a man at a trucking company before chasing after another man, killing him, and then driving to a home where he shot dead a father and daughter during a nearly 40-minute rampage, authorities said Thursday. Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood identified the killer as Javier Casarez during a news conference about the shootings that claimed five victims in Bakersfield, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) north of Los Angeles.

Casarez, 54, fatally shot himself as a deputy closed in on him shortly after the shooting.

Court records show a divorce between Casarez and his wife Petra Maribel Bolanos de Casarez was finalized in April.

Bolanos recently filed for a change involving child support and custody over the couple's two teenage children, and the pair had a hearing set for Oct. 11, court records show.

Youngblood said it appears that Casarez targeted every victim, starting with a worker at T&T Trucking, and that domestic violence appears to have played a large part.

"It appears to be there's more than just husband and wife having a fight because other people were targeted," he said. "There's a reason for that and we need to find that reason."

Casarez likely took his ex-wife to the trucking company against her will and then fatally shot 50-year-old Manuel Contreras with a .50-caliber handgun, authorities said. He shot his ex-wife and then turned the gun on a second man, 50-year-old Antonio Valadez, the sheriff's department said.

Casarez fired at Valadez as he ran away, but then tracked him down in his car and killed him, the sheriff said.

Casarez then drove to the

house of 57-year-old Eliseo Garcia Cazares, who Youngblood identified as a friend. Casarez fatally shot Garcia and his daughter, 31-year-old Laura Garcia.

"She may have tried to intervene to keep the suspect from approaching her father, and he shot and killed both of them," Youngblood said.

After the shooting at the Garcia home, Casarez carjacked a woman driving with her child. The woman and child escaped, and Casarez drove to a highway where a sheriff's deputy saw him, Youngblood said. As the deputy closed in, yelling at Casarez to drop his gun, Casarez fatally shot himself in the stomach, according to graphic body camera footage released by police on Facebook. The video shows deputies and paramedics working to save Casarez. Deputies look over Casarez's gun and talk about how he would have had to reload it during the rampage. David Bunting, who said he's a friend of Eliseo Garcia Cazares and lives two doors down from him, said he has no idea why his neighbor would have been targeted.

He said Garcia was a self-employed truck driver who always was with his grandkids when not working, often driving them around on his golf cart.

"He's a really nice guy. I can't say enough good things about him," Bunting said. "It's kind of a shock because of the kind of a person he was."

He said his daughter Laura was a mother of four and that most of the Garcias' large family was home at the time of the shooting. He said they're devastated and in shock.

He said Eliseo Garcia Cazares and his wife had four grown children, including a daughter who was killed in a car accident a few years ago.

T&T Trucking, where the initial shooting happened, said in a statement that the company "is in a state of mourning." "We are great-



**A Kern County sheriff's deputy stands near an area where a shooting victim lies, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, in Bakersfield, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

ly saddened and offer our heartfelt condolence and prayers to those who lost a loved one." About 30

witnesses were being interviewed by deputies, Youngblood said. He said investigators are

looking into whether Casarez's ex-wife may have had relationships with Contreras or Valadez. □



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# UK says Brexit could mean less warning of falling space junk

**LONDON (AP)** — It turns out the consequences of Brexit may not be confined to Earth.

The British government said Thursday that the U.K. may get less warning of falling space debris if the country leaves the bloc without a divorce agreement.

The news was one of the more eye-catching items in a government assessment of the disruption to Britain's economy and daily life that would be caused by a "no deal" Brexit. Britain is due to leave the 28-nation EU on March 29, but divorce negotiations have become bogged down amid divisions within Britain's Conservative government over how close an economic relationship to seek with the bloc. The British government says it is confident the two sides will reach a deal, but has recently stepped up preparations for leaving without an agreement.

On Thursday it published the second batch in a trove of more than 70 papers looking at the potential impact on various sectors of the economy.



Britain's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union Dominic Raab arrives for a cabinet meeting on Brexit at 10 Downing Street in London, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

The documents disclosed that, without a deal, Britain will no longer receive data from the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking Program, set up to protect satellites and people on Earth from space debris.

The U.K. would no longer be part of the organiza-

tion or receive its warnings about space objects or debris falling to earth, the government said — though "the U.K. will continue to receive space, surveillance and tracking data from the United States of America." Labour Party lawmaker Jo Stevens, a supporter of the anti-Brexit group Best for Britain, said "it is deeply worrying that the U.K. will be shut out of some of the most cutting-edge research in the world."

Prime Minister Theresa May "used to say Brexit wouldn't be the end of the world — but actually it could be!" she said.

The papers also said British drivers traveling to the continent might need to get International Driving Permits if the EU did not agree to recognize U.K. licenses. □

# France's Macron unveils plan to combat poverty



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech on poverty to social aid workers in Paris, France, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — French President Emmanuel Macron, often branded by critics as the president of the rich, has unveiled an 8 billion-euro (\$9 billion) plan to tackle poverty.

Macron said in a speech Thursday: "I don't want a plan to help poor people to better live poor. I want them to be given the choice, and the possibility, not to be poor anymore."

The plan runs over the next four years. It focuses on better education for poor children and providing help to unemployed people to get back to work, rather than financial aid only.

Measures include places in nursery to free up parents for work or training, school breakfasts in poor neighborhoods and compulsory job training for school leavers under 18.

Another measure previ-

ously announced involves a smaller number of children per class between the ages of 6 and 8 in poor neighborhoods.

"Poverty must not be transmitted as a heritage anymore", Macron said.

Macron announced plans to change the social benefit system by 2020, so that one single minimum income for the poorest will replace the current complex system of benefits. Those who receive the payment will be asked to look for a job or training, he said.

After 16 months in power, the 40-year-old centrist leader has seen his recent popularity ratings reach a low.

Political opponents and unions criticized his pro-business policies as favoring the rich. He notably scrapped a tax for the wealthy and sought to attract big French and foreign investors.

Statistics agency Insee estimates that about 14 percent of France's population lives below the poverty line. □



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## Pope OKs probe into US bishop as he meets with US delegation

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Pope Francis accepted the resignation of a U.S. bishop Thursday and authorized an investigation into allegations he sexually harassed adults, adding awkward drama to an audience with U.S. church leaders over the abuse and cover-up scandal roiling the Catholic Church.

The resignation of West Virginia Bishop Michael Bransfield was announced just as the four-member U.S. delegation was sitting down with Francis in his private study in the Apostolic Palace. Among the four was Bransfield's cousin, Monsignor Brian Bransfield, secretary-general of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Bransfield had been investigated for an alleged groping incident in 2007 and was implicated in court testimony in 2012 in an infamous Philadelphia priestly sex abuse case. He strongly denied ever abusing anyone and the diocese said it had disproved the claims. He continued with his ministry until he offered to retire, as required, when he turned 75 last week.

The Vatican said Francis accepted his resignation Thursday and appointed Baltimore Archbishop William Lori to take over Bransfield's Wheeling-Charleston diocese temporarily. Lori said in a statement that Francis had also instructed him to "conduct an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment of adults



**Pope Francis delivers his speech during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.**

against Bishop Bransfield." No details of the allegations were revealed and his diocese said it had "no idea" where Bransfield was after the Vatican ordered him to live outside the diocese. Lori set up a hotline for potential victims to call, said the Vatican had instructed him to make the investigation public, and vowed to conduct a thorough study into what he said were "troubling" claims against Bransfield, who was a major fundraiser for the Vatican via the Pennsylvania-based Papal Foundation. The revelation was the latest twist in an incredible turn of events in the U.S. church that began with the June 20 announcement that one of the most prestigious U.S. cardinals, Theodore McCarrick, had been accused of groping a teenage altar boy in the 1970s. Francis removed McCarrick

as a cardinal in July after a U.S. church investigation found the allegation credible. After news broke of the investigation, several former seminarians and priests came forward to report that they, too, had been abused or harassed by McCarrick as adults. The McCarrick affair — coupled with revelations in the Pennsylvania grand jury report detailing decades of abuse and cover-up in six dioceses — has fueled outrage among the rank-and-file faithful who had trusted church leaders to reform themselves after the abuse scandal first erupted in Boston in 2002. Outrage has also been directed at Francis and the Vatican and has fueled conservative criticism of Francis' pontificate. The head of the U.S. bishops conference, Houston Cardinal Daniel DiNardo,

had requested the papal audience last month following revelations that McCarrick had risen through church ranks even though the allegations of sexual misconduct were known in U.S. and Vatican circles. DiNardo requested a full-fledged Vatican investigation into the McCarrick affair, and said he also wanted answers to allegations that a string of Vatican officials knew of McCarrick's misdeeds since 2000, but turned a blind eye. A statement issued by DiNardo after the papal audience made no mention of his request for a Vatican investigation. It said that the Americans briefed the pope on the "laceration" that abuse has caused and that "we look forward to actively continuing our discernment together identifying the most effective next steps."

The statement also made no mention of the Bransfield investigation. McCarrick was a co-consecrator when Bishop Bransfield was ordained a bishop in 2005 and the two were active in the Papal Foundation, the big U.S. fundraising organization that McCarrick co-founded and which has funneled millions of dollars to the Vatican over the years.

Bransfield was president when the foundation was thrown into disarray last year over a revolt by its lay donors. They were incensed that the cardinals who run the foundation had agreed to a \$25 million request from the Vatican to bail out a troubled Rome hospital. Under pressure, the cardinals pulled the plug on the funding midway through.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston spokesman Tim Bishop said Thursday he couldn't answer questions about Bransfield's whereabouts or whether he has an attorney.

"The Holy See has instructed him to live outside the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston," Bishop said. "I have no idea of his whereabouts."

The Vatican hasn't responded to allegations by its former ambassador to the U.S., Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, that Francis effectively rehabilitated McCarrick from sanctions imposed by Pope Benedict XVI over allegations McCarrick would routinely invite seminarians to his beach house and into his bed. □



# ECB's Draghi: Trade war chief worry for global economy

By DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The European Central Bank pushed forward Thursday with its plan to gradually phase out its monetary stimulus, saying it is confident in the region's growth. But its president, Mario Draghi, warned that the United States' trade dispute with several major powers has become a key economic concern.

The chief monetary authority for the 19 countries that use the euro confirmed Thursday that its bond-buying stimulus would be cut to 15 billion euros (\$17.4 billion) a month from 30 billion euros after September.

The decision was widely expected after being mapped out in detail at



The President of European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, speaks during a news conference after a meeting of the ECB governing council in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

ism." U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on aluminum and steel imports and on some Chinese goods, raising concerns about a cycle of retaliation that could hinder global trade.

The ECB, like other major central banks, is removing extraordinary support for the economy left over from the Great Recession and the eurozone debt crisis of 2010-2012 that saw several indebted member countries bailed out by the other members.

The stimulus withdrawal is accompanied by a caveat that the bank could change plans in case of an unexpected downturn. That seems unlikely at the moment, though analysts say a weakening of growth could delay the first interest rate rise, which the ECB currently expects to come no earlier than in the second half of 2019.

The eurozone grew 0.3 percent in the second quarter over the quarter before, and the European Commission forecasts 2.3 percent growth for the full year. Unemployment has fallen to 8.2 percent from over 12 percent in 2013 as the eurozone continues to heal from the Great Recession and the debt crisis. The recovery remains uneven, however, with unemployment at 19.5 percent in Greece and 15.1 percent in Spain.

The ECB's stimulus exit is part of a global trend: the withdrawal of stimulus from the rich world's major monetary authorities, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan. They loosened monetary policy — lowering interest rates and pumping new money into the financial system — to support the economy after the global financial crisis that deepened 10 years ago with the bankruptcy of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers. A crisis over debt in Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus and Italy further held back the 19 countries that use the euro as their currency. □

## DETOUR ALERT TANKI FLIP ROUNDABOUT

This upcoming Saturday the 15th of September 2018 from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM the roundabout in Tanki Flip will be closed in all directions for measuring and asphalt repair. Tuesday the 18th and Wednesday the 19th of September 2018 from 2:00 PM until 7:00 PM the aforementioned roundabout will be closed for asphaltting. Traffic making use of Caya Ernesto Petronia, Cunucu Abao, Tanki Flip and Shaba will be deviated via Ponton, Matadera and Hato.

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the bank's June 14 meeting. The ECB set out its plans to halt the stimulus in December and postpone any interest rate increase until well after that. Analysts do not expect a rate hike until the second half of 2019 at the earliest.

Draghi said at a post-decision news conference that the eurozone was seeing "an on-going, broad-based expansion." Trouble in markets in emerging markets like Argentina and Turkey "so far does not show any sign of spillover," he said. Asked about concerns that Italy's new populist government will break with Europe's rules on public spending and rekindle a debt crisis in the region, he said that top officials had given assurances they would respect the rules, but that there had also been conflicting statements and that the actual budget decisions would be what counts. "Words have changed many times," he said. "We are waiting for facts."

For now, the questions over Italy do not seem to be affecting other countries, Draghi noted. "So far, it's pretty much an Italian episode."

The key threat to the global economy right now, Draghi said, is "uncertainties related to rising protection-





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# Russian suspects in poisoning: We were in UK as tourists

By JIM HEINTZ  
JILL LAWLESS

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The two Russian men spun an unlikely tale of hapless tourists defeated by grim British weather: They traveled more than 1,000 miles to see England's famed Salisbury Cathedral but were turned back by slush and snow, then returned the next day and spent two hours exploring the "beautiful" city.

British officials had a more sinister explanation: Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov were highly trained military intelligence agents sent by the Kremlin to Salisbury to smear a deadly nerve agent on the front door of a former Russian spy.

Petrov and Boshirov, both charged in absentia by Britain last week for trying to kill Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, with the nerve agent Novichok, went on the Kremlin-funded RT satellite channel Thursday to proclaim their innocence, deny they were agents of the military intelligence service widely



In this video grab provided by the RT channel, Ruslan Boshirov, left, and Alexander Petrov attend their first public appearance in an interview with the Kremlin-funded RT channel in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

known as the GRU, and say they were merely tourists in the city southwest of London.

"Our friends had been suggesting for quite a long time that we visit this wonderful city," Petrov said in the interview.

"They have a famous cathedral there," Boshirov said, adding studiously: "It

is famous for its 123-meter spire."

James Slack, spokesman for British Prime Minister Theresa May, derided their claims as "lies and blatant fabrications."

"More importantly, they are deeply offensive to the victims and loved ones of this horrific attack," he said.

Britain said the attack was

almost certainly approved "at a senior level of the Russian state," an allegation that Moscow has vehemently denied.

Skripal, a Russian military intelligence officer turned double agent for Britain, and his visiting daughter fell ill March 4 from what Britain says was a Soviet-developed nerve agent;

an investigating police officer also was hospitalized for about three weeks. In June, two area residents who apparently came across a discarded vial that contained the poison fell ill, and one of them died. Britain identified the Russian suspects last week and released security-camera photos of them in Salisbury on March 3 and 4. The surprise TV appearance by Petrov and Boshirov came a day after President Vladimir Putin said Russian authorities know the identities of the two men but insisted that they were civilians and there is "nothing criminal" about them. He urged to contact the media, and Petrov said he heard Putin's statement on the radio and contacted Margarita Simonyan, RT's editor-in-chief who conducted the interview. Petrov said that on their first trip to Salisbury, they were unable to make it from the train station to the cathedral — about 800 meters (half a mile) — because of snow and slush. Much of Britain suffered such weather that day. □



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# Trump comments sting in Puerto Rico amid slow storm recovery

By **DANICA COTO**  
**ANGELIKI KASTANIS**  
**Associated Press**  
**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico**

**(AP)** — President Donald Trump's assertion that the federal government's response to Hurricane Maria was "an incredible, unsung success" fell flat in Puerto Rico, where islanders are still struggling to recover from the devastating storm a year later.

"I was indignant," said Gloria Rosado, a 62-year-old college professor who watched the president's news conference on TV late Tuesday from San Juan and was still fuming the next day. "The image of my dead husband immediately came to my mind ... as well as all the lives that were lost."

Rosado's husband, who was hospitalized for respiratory and renal complications and ultimately suffered a heart attack, was one of the estimated 2,975 people who died in the Category 4 storm's aftermath when medical resources were strained beyond the breaking point.

For many, Trump's boast about "one of the best jobs that's ever been done" was hard to square with their daily reality: Blackouts remain common; nearly 60,000 homes are covered by only a makeshift roof not capable of withstanding a Category 1 hurricane; and 13 percent of municipalities lack stable phone or internet service.

"Nobody is singing his praises because we all saw what happened," San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz told The Associated Press. "He wasn't up to the task...and the way that he neglected our lives gave permission to other people in his administration to look the other way."

Cruz criticized Trump in a series of tweets, including one that said, "If he thinks the death of 3,000 people (is) a success God help us all."

That reignited a longstanding feud between the mayor and Trump, who fired back calling her "totally incompetent" and saying the



In this Sept. 26, 2017 file photo, Nestor Serrano walks on the upstairs floor of his home, where the walls were blown off, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

U.S. government "did an unappreciated great job in Puerto Rico."

A July report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, noted several shortcomings in its response, including that it underestimated how much food and water would be needed after the storm and that not enough Spanish-speaking aid workers were deployed to the island.

At the same time, the agency also faced challenges that were arguably beyond its control such as the sheer force of the monster storm and the logistical difficulties of reaching the Caribbean island over a thousand miles (1,600 kilometers) away from the mainland.

And many residents say local officials share much of the blame. Puerto Rico's government has acknowledged that its emergency plans were designed for a Category 1 hurricane, as well as failures to follow those plans and communications breakdowns.

Ramon Ruiz, a 56-year-old business owner whose father died from heart problems on Thanksgiving after riding out the hurricane alone at home, pressed up against the door to keep it from caving in, is among those who say both local and federal authorities were slow to act.

"If it wasn't for the churches

and private organizations, we truly would not have received help from anyone," Ruiz said. "They are treating us like second-class citizens. ... If we were another state, the response would have been much faster."

In Maria's aftermath, according to FEMA data analyzed by the AP, approvals for individual assistance checks in Puerto Rico were slower compared with what happened with large storms last year. From Sept. 30 to Oct. 7, not one of those checks was approved. On Oct. 8 the approvals began rolling again, but with a large spike suggesting a backlog.

In addition, data from the U.S. Small Business Admin-

istration indicate that approvals for disaster loans in Puerto Rico were slow — the first one was not approved until 15 days after the storm was declared, four times as long as with Hurricane Harvey.

For Maria, there was a large gap between when the first loan was approved and when loans started ramping up. While 25 percent of Harvey loans were OKed within 42 days, for Maria, that didn't happen until Jan. 9, more than three months after the storm hit. Overall, compared with Harvey and Irma, Maria saw more funds loaned to homeowners rather than business owners.

Islanders have also been

angered by recent discoveries of supplies that never got delivered. A photo that emerged Tuesday of thousands of water bottles abandoned on a runway in eastern Puerto Rico prompted local officials to say Wednesday that they were opening an investigation.

Ottmar Chavez, the new secretary of the island's General Services Administration, said at a news conference that Puerto Rican officials requested the water from the U.S. government and were supposed to pick it up in late May. He said some of it was distributed but people complained that it smelled bad. He added that it was unclear why the remainder sat on the runway for nearly four months.

Shortly after Maria hit last year, Trump visited Puerto Rico and was widely criticized for tossing paper towels to storm victims in a manner seen by many as insensitive to the scope of the disaster.

His latest remarks once again dredged up those same hurt feelings.

"I ignore them because none of them make sense," said Michelle Cruz, a 48-year-old airline worker whose mother died in December from septicemia after contracting an infection in a hospital during surgery after Maria. "It bothers me and it hurts. But I don't pay attention to him." □



## LOCAL



## BUCUTI & TARA BEACH RESORT NAMED CARIBBEAN'S FIRST CERTIFIED CarbonNeutral RESORT



**EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – Proving actions speak louder than words, Aruba's Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort just became the very first hotel in the Caribbean to achieve carbon neutrality. To be certified as CarbonNeutral®, recognized as a critical element in the resort's comprehensive sustainability program, the CarbonNeutral® certification follows the CarbonNeutral Protocol and was officially made on August 28, 2018.**

### What does it mean to be CarbonNeutral?

CarbonNeutral is a global standard awarded to businesses that have reduced their (CO<sub>2</sub>) greenhouse gas emissions, which trap heat in the atmosphere, to net zero. "Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort has set the benchmark high with its sustainability program and we're delighted that CarbonNeutral certification has been added to its achievements, demonstrating the commitment to net zero emissions that leading businesses throughout the world are achieving," said Saskia Feast, VP Western Region, Natural Capital Partners.

What does being CarbonNeutral mean for Bucuti's guests?

Providing a net zero carbon emissions experience means Bucuti's guests

leave no footprint, but do leave with a memorable, guiltfree vacation. Bucuti & Tara's mission is to achieve lasting results for both its guests and conservation. Bucuti & Tara has now proven that carbon neutrality and a memorable vacation are mutually inclusive.

### The Path to CarbonNeutral

Over the years, the resort's Green Team, with full owner support and substantial investment, accomplished extensive emission reductions within its operation. Through its extensive CarbonNeutral initiatives, Bucuti & Tara reduced its carbon emissions to the maximum possible level within the resort. The small remaining gap is offset with carbon credits through its local Vader Piet wind farm. Initiatives span the simple to the complex with every resort service being scrutinized and improved upon. Gifting every guest with a reusable water canteen has resulted in keeping 290,000 single-use plastic water bottles annually from landing in Aruba's landfill. Offering healthier portions provided guests with more sensible – and desirable – serving sizes, with a by-product of reducing food waste by 30%. The resort installed the island's largest solar panel system – the maximum the government would allow.

Bucuti is committed to following The CarbonNeutral Protocol, the leading framework for achieving carbon neutrality worldwide. Through the carbon neutrality certification process, it worked with SCS Global Services (formerly Scientific Certifications Systems) to verify the emissions of resort operations and Natural Capital Partners, carbon offset experts in the delivery of solutions for positive impact on carbon, renewable energy, biodiversity and water.

### The Caribbean's Eco-pioneer

Ewald Biemans, owner and CEO of Bucuti & Tara and passionate environmentalist, has steadfastly woven sustainable practices throughout the resort's policies and culture since opening in 1987. Recognized as the Caribbean's most eco-certified resort, Bucuti & Tara was the first ISO 14001 certified hotel in the Americas, the first in the Caribbean to achieve LEED Silver certification and has been named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort by Green Globe.

Biemans himself has received multiple awards as a green leader including being the Caribbean Journal's Green Hotelier of the Year and last year he was

the first-ever individual to receive Leader in Sustainability Gold Adrian Award from the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International and National Geographic Traveler, an honor previously only awarded to organizations. He is often called upon for public speaking engagements and expert insight about sustainability.

### Why invest to be CarbonNeutral?

Earth's temperatures continue to soar, and sea levels are rising threatening coastal communities worldwide such as sea-level Aruba. Bucuti & Tara recognizes that human-driven climate change is a global issue that every person, business and organization, has a responsibility to change. "Our guests have chosen Aruba for our naturally beautiful beaches, stunning turquoise waters and the happy, healthy island community. We must protect and preserve our environment on a meaningful level to deliver this experience in the future," says Ewald Biemans. "I believe the hard work, passion and dedication of our sustainability team to achieve carbon neutrality will inspire others to consider similar action."

### About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first CarbonNeutral hotel in the Caribbean in August 2018 and the No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean for 2018 by guest-driven TripAdvisor, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort. Led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, named by Caribbean Journal as the 2017 Caribbean Hotelier of the Year, the resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World." Bucuti offers 104 well-appointed guestrooms, suites and penthouses; sunbeds and shade for every guest; fresh water infinity pool; spa; WiFi; and complimentary iPad with Skype for use during stay. Award-winning healthy dining is enjoyed at oceanfront Elements, Tara Lounge and private beach dining. Reserved exclusively for guests and their friends, the open-air SandBar on the beach offers top-shelf cocktails and live music daily. The resort is TAG Approved as a LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of LEED Silver, Green Globe Platinum, ISO 14001 and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe. □





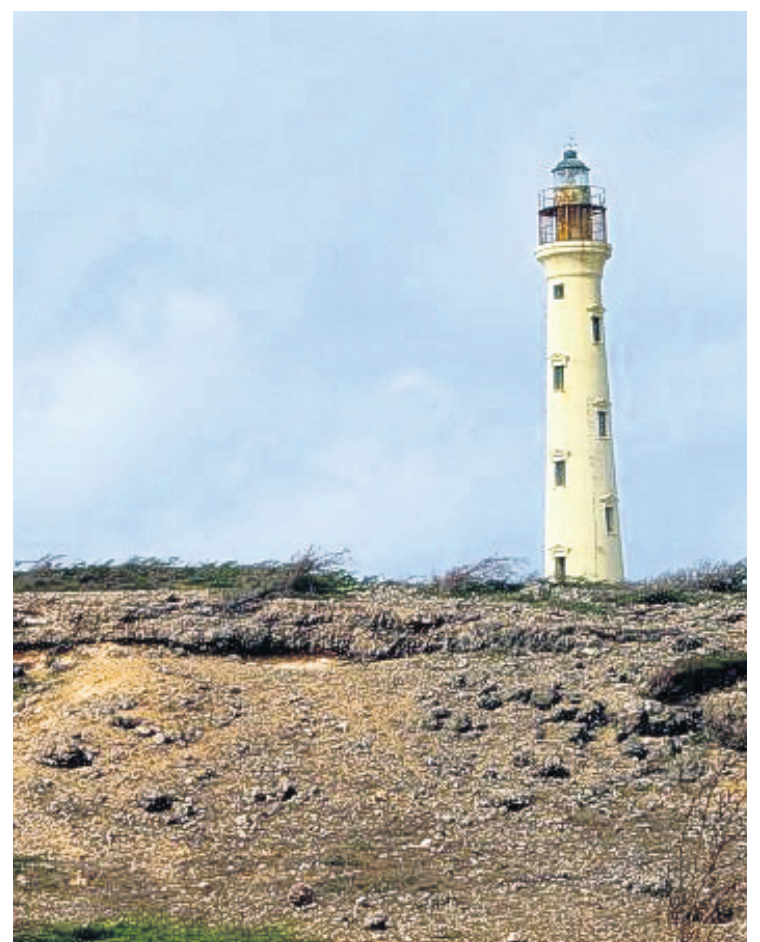
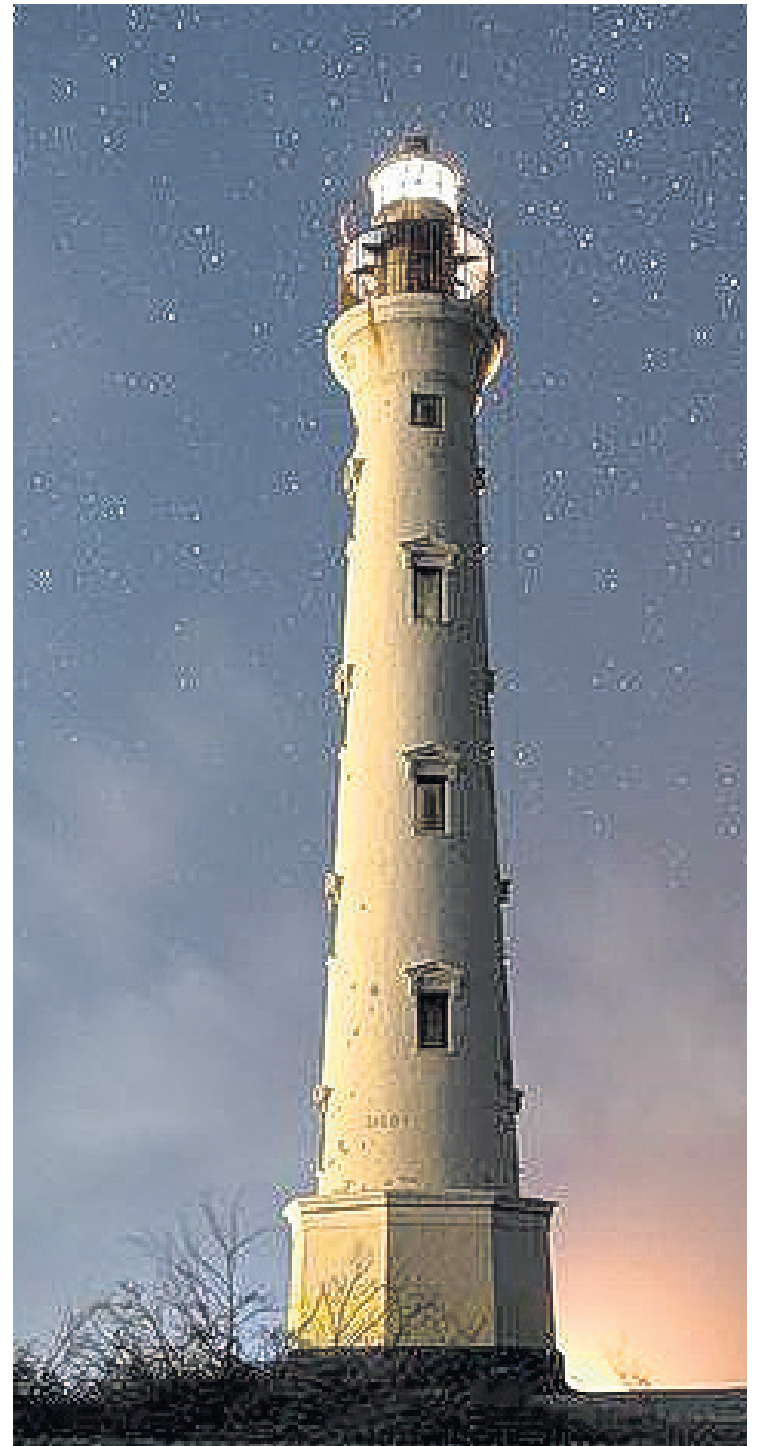
## California Lighthouse temporarily closed to the public



**NOORD** — Monumentsfund Aruba (SMFA) started with the restoration of the California Lighthouse in 2015. One year after, in August 2016, the lighthouse was officially opened to the public for the first time in one hundred years.

Faro Blanco Restaurant took the challenge to rent the lighthouse and offered tours for visitors during the last two years. The contract with Faro Blanco has ended and Monumentsfund Aruba as the owner of the lighthouse is currently in conversations with potential new partners. Meanwhile the Lighthouse will be closed to the public so that we can perform some maintenance and prepare everything for the new partners.

SMFA would like to thank Faro Blanco for the work they have done these past two years and are looking forward to open the doors once again for the public to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. □



### Travel Tips

**Aeropuerto Internacional  
Reina Beatrix**  
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on [www.airportaruba.com](http://www.airportaruba.com).



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## Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... (Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com))

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from Nancy Caton of Stoneham, Massachusetts

She wrote:

Aruba to me is the best vacation spot in the world. I have been coming here for 15 years and I visit at least once a year. I have a time-share at the RIU – two weeks – back to back

Aruba to me is the most relaxing, beautiful, safe, friendliest people and happiest place in the world to vacation. It is a true vacation coming to Aruba year after year. There is no other place I would rather be... Aruba to me is my home away from home!





## Asi Es Mi Peru restaurant launches Chef Table 5 Course Menu:

# "It feels like having dinner at home in Peru"



**EAGLEBEACH — Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas is the proud owner of a restaurant that without doubt serves the purest Peruvian specialties in Aruba: Asi Es Mi Peru at Paradise Beach Villas. She herself welcomes you in 'her home' as that is how the restaurant is described by Peruvian foodies: Food like home, for sure the best compliment a restaurant can get. "Everything here is 100 % Peruvian, we are authentic and ethnic." Peru by the way is considered to be the single most important cuisine in Latin America with a repertoire of dishes that might even beat France. Many big-name chefs travel to the country to get inspired. How It All Started**

"Many years ago during a Christmas gathering with family my mom told me why I did not open a Peruvian restaurant in Aruba. She said: who does not love Peruvian food?" That was the trigger for the start because Roxanne loves cooking, it is in her genes. Her mom and grandmother were great cooks. "My base principle was to do everything original and authentic. When

guests come to this restaurant I want to serve them the food as if you were dining the best dishes in a house in Peru. The taste is equal, nothing is fused or changed. Many Peruvians that come here say: I feel like I am having dinner at home. It is very difficult to please Peruvians as naturally they know best what is authentic." To find her Chef and Sous Chef she went to Peru where she interviewed 190 applicants. "We had more than 400 people that applied, after a screening that my brother and I did, we were left with 190 and out of them 10 cooked for me. I gave them a basket with ingredients and a certain plate they had to cook.

Based on that I chose the Chef and Sous Chef." Chef Table 5 Course Menu Peruvian food is remarkable for the diversity of its ingredients. It might be best known for its ceviche, the marinated seafood dish, but bestsellers are also Lomo Saltado (stir fry strips sirloin), seafood rice and Pescado a lo Macho (fish of the day). Roxanne explains that recently the Chef launched a 5-course Chef Table Menu. "Now that we have standardized our typical Peruvian cuisine, we are ready to take it to the next level. Our Chef is very knowledgeable and we bring higher cuisine to the table." Of the 5 courses the first is the Tiradito Tres

Regiones, and the 2nd the Majao de Yuca con Pargo Escabechado paired with a wonderful Santiago Ruiz Albarino; The 3rd plate is a Cremosa de Quinoa con Aji Relleno paired with a Hahn Pinot Noir, the 4th the Lomo con Salsa de Hongos

Andinos paired with a Merlot Santa Margarita, and the 5th a Crocante de Maracuya. Try this wonderful culinary experience! Roxanne explains that the Peruvian food is influenced by different cultures. "A lot of people came from China to work in the sugar plantations, Japanese came to work in the rice fields and African immigrants brought their influences as well... that's why you see a fusion in the dishes. The typical food and plates from Peru mixed with these influences make up for an excellent cuisine. Our sushi for example is totally different than the standard sushi and we have so many pastas that are outside of Italian pastas. The variety of corn, more than 500 variety of potatoes... I can go on and on." I guess you will need to try it for yourself as Roxanne's place is unique. Asi Es Mi Peru is open every day from 12 noon - 10:30 pm. They are closed on Monday evening. Have a peak on their website <https://www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com/> or Facebook [asiesmiperu](https://www.facebook.com/asiesmiperu). □





# SPORTS



Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart holds and poses with the trophy with her teammates after Game 3 of the WNBA basketball finals against the Washington Mystics, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, in Fairfax, Va. The Storm won 98-82 and the title.

Associated Press

## Stewart, Storm surge past Mystics 98-82 for WNBA title

By BENJAMIN STANDIG  
Associated Press

**FAIRFAX, Va. (AP)** — Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart fretted following the regular-season opener after the Seattle Storm lost at home to the Phoenix Mercury. "We thought, 'Oh, crap, what kind of year is this going to be?'" Bird reminisced.

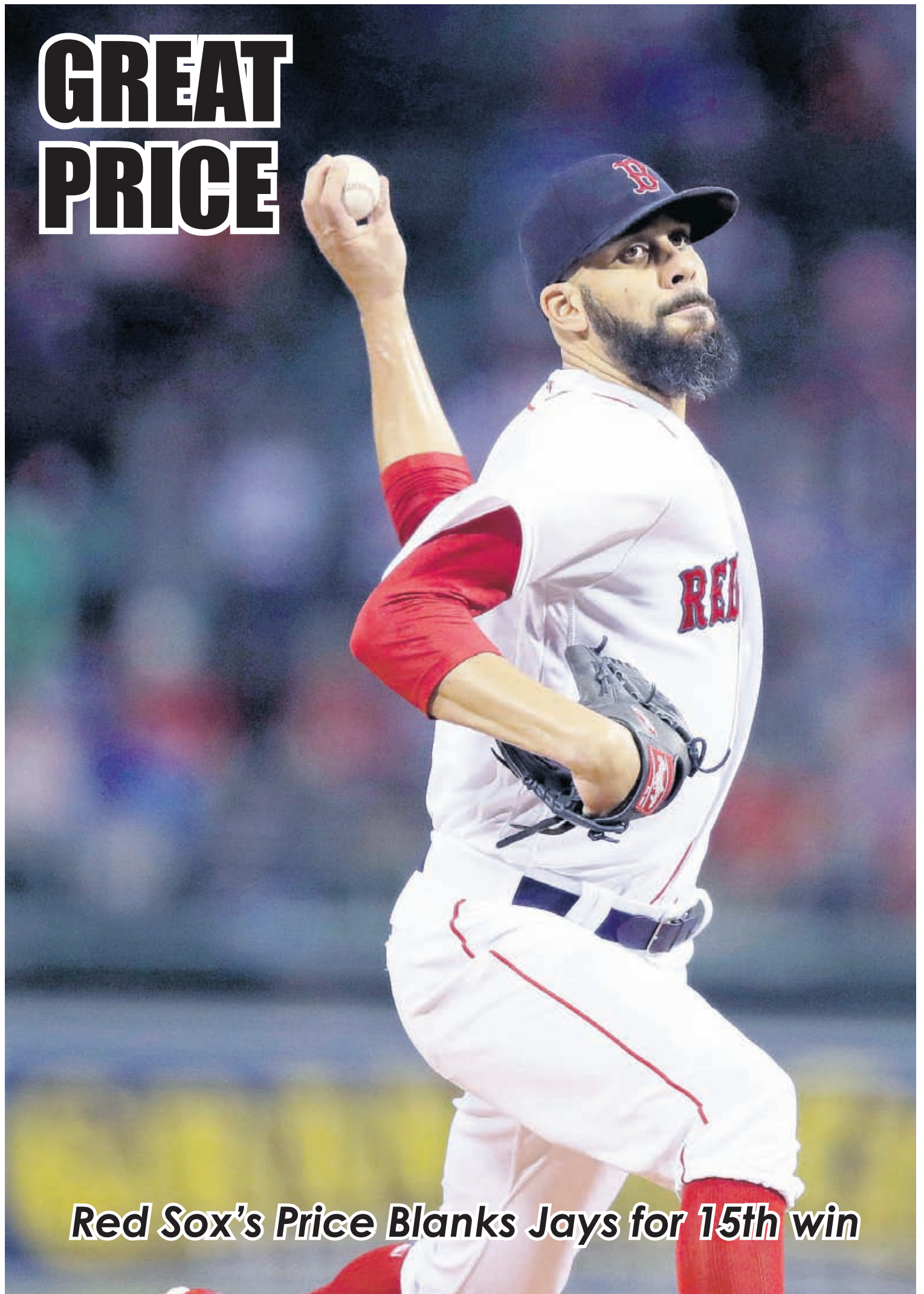
The answer came nearly four months later with a championship.

Stewart led the Storm to their third WNBA title Wednesday night, scoring 30 points in a 98-82 victory over the Washington Mystics in Game 3 of the best-of-five series.

Natasha Howard added career-high 29 points and 14 rebounds for the Storm. Seattle won 26 games during the regular season — 11 more than the 2017 campaign — entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed, and swept the finals.

Continued on Page 18

# GREAT PRICE



## Red Sox's Price Blanks Jays for 15th win

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher David Price delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.

Associated Press  
Page 19



## WNBA title

Continued from Page 17

Stewart was the league MVP and was selected the Finals MVP after averaging 25.6 points in the three games. She scored 17 points in the first half as the Storm raced to a 47-30 lead.

"Stewie was just amazing," Storm coach Dan Hughes said. "She truly was the MVP of this league. She truly was the MVP of these Finals. God blessed me with an opportunity to coach her and I will be forever grateful."

Bird, also a member of a Seattle's championship teams in 2004 and 2010, was certainly appreciative of the title — and the growth of the Storm's younger players. Seattle landed Jewell Loyd and Stewart, both All-Stars in 2018 with Bird, with the No. 1 overall picks in 2015 and 2016 respectively. "Each (championship) is special in its own way, but this one is probably going to have a different meaning for me," said the 37-year-old point guard who had 10 points and 10 assists. "There is probably no comparison to be honest. I didn't know if I'd be playing at this point. Our team went through a rebuild and yes, I decided to stay. Once we got Stewie



Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart poses with the finals MVP trophy and the WNBA championship trophy after Game 3 of the WNBA basketball finals against the Washington Mystics, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, in Fairfax, Va. The Storm won 98-82 and the title.

and Jewell, we knew we'd get to the other side, but how do you know you're going to get to the other side this fast?"

The coach sensed something brewing early in his first year with the franchise. Following the Phoenix loss, Seattle won five in a row. "I think this was our year," Hughes said. "All year you could just see the escalation."

Elena Delle Donne scored 23 points for the Mystics. Kristi Toliver had 22 points.

"Obviously, this finals didn't go the way we wanted it. The great thing is we can still improve. We don't feel

like we peaked and this is it for us," Delle Donne said. Washington reached the Finals for the first time in franchise history.

"There's been a huge transformation with the culture of this team," said Delle Donne, who was acquired by Washington before the 2017 season. "Last year we were brand new. I didn't know (Toliver's) favorite beer. That's a pretty important thing to know about Panda. Now I can go to the bar and order her everything she needs. Toliver, seated next to the first-team All-WNBA player, chimed in. "I'm going to

need a lot tonight."

Alysha Clark had 15 points for Seattle.

Washington battled Seattle and history. Since the league went to a best-of-five format in 2005, four teams trailed 0-2. Each lost Game 3. The Mystics joined that unwanted club. Poor perimeter shooting contributed. Washington finished 8 of 23 on 3-pointers in Game 3 and 11 for 60 (18.3) in the series.

Despite the misfires, Washington rallied from down 18 points to trailing 72-67 with 6:49 remaining. Starting with a Stewart 3-point play, Seattle countered with

eight consecutive points and pulled away.

"We were up at halftime, but we knew D.C. was going to come back," Stewart said. "It was how we countered that when things got close. That's what really separated us again."

This is likely just the beginning for the dynamic 24-year-old forward, who won the NCAA Championship during each of her four seasons at the University of Connecticut.

"It didn't feel like my first WNBA finals closeout game," the poised Stewart said.

"This is probably going to be one of the most defining moments of my career," Bird said.

TIP-INS

The location, George Mason University, marked the third arena Washington has called home this season and the second in the playoffs. ... Washington starting center LaToya Sanders sprained her left ankle diving for a loose ball in the third quarter. She was carried to the locker room and did not return. ... Among those in attendance were Washington Wizards guards John Wall and Bradley Beal, University of Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma, University of Maryland coach Brenda Frese and Washington Redskins running back Derrius Guice. □

## Celtics' Hayward: Rehab was 'most difficult thing I've done'

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

**BOSTON (AP)** — The Celtics were in sunny Los Angeles, it was another sub-zero winter day back in Boston, and Gordon Hayward was stuck in rehab, shooting baskets from a chair and picking up marbles with his toes to work his surgically repaired ankle back into shape.

"The hardest part of the whole process has been the mental challenge," Hayward said Thursday, reporting that he is 100 percent healthy and preparing to be on the court for

the Oct. 16 opener against the Philadelphia 76ers. "I think you find the fight within yourself."

The Celtics' top free-agent acquisition of the 2017 summer, Hayward was injured in the first quarter of the first game of the season when he landed awkwardly on his left leg, breaking his tibia and dislocating his ankle. He may have been able to return before the end of the season, but then he needed more surgery in May. Other players did their best to keep up his spirits: One time, Aron Baynes brought back some Krispy

Kreme doughnuts from a road trip and drove them over to Hayward's house.

"There's so many days where I wake up and it's like, 'Man, here we go again,'" he said. "It was the most difficult thing I've done."

Speaking at the new practice facility named for Red Auerbach, Hayward said he celebrated each bit of progress — the walking boot coming off, or shooting baskets standing up, instead of sitting in a chair. Within the past two weeks, he has been able to play five-on-five basketball. □



Boston Celtics' Gordon Hayward waves as he steps off the basketball court after speaking with members of the media and taking part in a photo shoot, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, at the team's practice facility, in Boston.

Associated Press



# Red Sox beat Blue Jays 1-0 for 100th victory

**By The Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — The Boston Red Sox reached 100 wins for the first time since Ted Williams returned from World War II in the 1946 season, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 1-0 on Wednesday night.

David Price (15-6) won his sixth straight decision, allowing three hits and striking out seven. Unbeaten in 11 starts since July 1, Price left after 92 pitches with a lead earned when Rafael Devers scampered home on a wild pitch by Aaron Sanchez (4-6) in the fifth inning.

Craig Kimbrel got three outs for his 39th save in 44 chances.

A night after becoming the first major league team this year to clinch a playoff spot, Boston won for the 10th time in 14 games and moved a season-high 54 games above .500.

Jonathan Davis had his first major league hit for Toronto.

**TWINS 3, YANKEES 1**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Jake Odorizzi's no-hit bid was broken up when Greg Bird hit a run-scoring double with one out in the eighth inning, and Minnesota beat the Yankees to take two of three from New York.

The Yankees' lead over Oakland for the AL's top wild card was cut to one game.

Odorizzi walked Like Voigt before Bird lined the next pitch deep into the left-center gap. Odorizzi was immediately removed from the game by manager Paul Molitor and tipped his cap to the crowd as he walked off the field to a standing ovation. Odorizzi (6-10) struck out five and walked three, matching his big league high of 120 pitches set while pitching for Tampa Bay against the Twins on June 3, 2016.

Taylor Rogers struck out Gleyber Torres, and Trevor Hildenberger fanned Andrew McCutchen. Hildenberger finished for his sixth save. Luis Severino (17-8) allowed one run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings, dropping to 3-6 in his last 11 starts.

**RAYS 3, INDIANS 1**

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)** — Blake Snell took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and got his major league-leading 19th win, leading Tampa Bay past Cleveland.

Snell (19-5) lost his bid when Jose Ramirez led off the seventh with his 38th homer. Snell won his team-record seventh straight start, striking out nine and walking two in seven innings. Chaz Roe and Jose Alvarado each got three outs, completing a one-hitter. Alvarado got his eighth save in 11 chances.

Cleveland's magic number to clinch a third consecutive AL Central title remained at three.

Ji-Man Choi hit a two-run homer in the first off Carlos Carrasco (16-9), then took a well-inside pitch from Carrasco in the sixth and briefly stared at the mound. Choi hit a winning homer off Brad Hand in the ninth inning on Monday night.

**ATHLETICS 10, ORIOLES 0**

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Matt Olson homered during a 10-run third inning in which the first 11 batters reached base, and Oakland beat Baltimore for its sixth straight victory.

Oakland had 10 hits and two walks in its biggest inning of the year. Olson provided the big blow — a three-run shot off Andrew Cashner (4-15) — and three players had two hits.

That was more than enough offense to enable the A's to match their longest winning streak of the season. Oakland trails first-place Houston by three games in the AL West and owns a comfortable lead for the second AL wild card.

Daniel Mengden (7-6) pitched five innings of no-hit relief after entering in the second for starter Liam Hendriks, who went one inning by design. Baltimore's lone hit was a clean single to left field in the first by Trey Mancini.

Baltimore has lost six in a row to fall to 41-104, the worst record in the majors. It's the eighth time this season the Orioles have been mired in a skid of at least six

games.

**ASTROS 5, TIGERS 4**

**DETROIT (AP)** — George Springer made a diving catch in the eighth inning to help preserve Houston's lead, and the Astros swept a series at Comerica Park for the first time.

Detroit had a man on first with two outs in the eighth when Dawel Lugo hit a line drive down the line in right field. Springer made a diving catch. It was the 13th series sweep of the season for the Astros, who have won 10 of their last 11 games. Gerrit Cole (14-5) allowed two runs and three hits in five innings. Ryan Pressly pitched a perfect ninth for his first save. Daniel Norris (0-4) was the loser.

Nicholas Castellanos and James McCann homered for Detroit.

**PADRES 5, MARINERS 4**

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Austin Hedges and Hunter Renfroe hit long home runs, and San Diego held on to beat fast-sinking Seattle for a two-game sweep.

Trey Wingenter, Robert Stock, Jose Castillo and

AL EAST			
	W	L	GB
BOSTON	99	46	—
NEW YORK	90	55	9
TAMPA BAY	79	65	19
TORONTO	65	79	33
BALTIMORE	41	103	57

Boston Red Sox left fielder Andrew Benintendi throws the ball to the infield after making the catch on a fly out by Toronto Blue Jays' Teoscar Hernandez during the fifth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.

Associated Press

Craig Stammen struck out all nine batters they faced in relief of Joey Lucchesi, setting a franchise record for consecutive strikeouts and preserving a two-run lead.

The Mariners have lost 10 of 15 since Aug. 26 to fall

out of contention for the AL wild card.

Hedges helped the Padres jump on Wade LeBlanc (8-4) early with a two-run homer to left field in the second inning, ending the left-hander's 19-inning scoreless streak. □

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## LeMahieu hits 2-run homer in 9th, Rox beat D-backs 5-4

By The Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer off Yoshihisa Hirano in the ninth inning, and NL West-leading Colorado beat Arizona. LeMahieu helped the Rockies keep their 1 1/2-game advantage over Los Angeles intact. The Diamondbacks fell 3 1/2 games behind in the division race.

A night after getting his first career save, Hirano (4-3) allowed a single by Gerardo Parra off the glove of first baseman Paul Goldschmidt to begin the ninth. Charlie Blackmon bunted Parra over to second and LeMahieu followed with his first career walk-off homer. Wade Davis (3-6) picked up the win by pitching a perfect ninth, including two strikeouts.

Nolan Arenado had a big night for the Rockies with two doubles and a solo homer.

### **DODGERS 8, REDS 1**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Yasmani Grandal and Justin Turner drove in three runs each, and Los Angeles beat Cincinnati to avoid a season sweep by the last-place Reds.

Joc Pederson homered for the Dodgers, and Grandal had three hits. Los Angeles had been 0-6 against the Reds and was on the verge of being swept by Cincinnati in a season for the first time.

Left-hander Caleb Ferguson (6-2), the third of seven Dodgers pitchers, struck out three in the fifth.

Anthony DeSclafani (7-5) allowed six runs — five earned — five hits and



Colorado Rockies' DJ LeMahieu follows through with his swing after connecting for a two-run, walkoff home run off Arizona Diamondbacks relief pitcher Yoshihisa Hirano in the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, in Denver. The Rockies won 5-4.

three walks in 4 2/3 innings. Jose Peraza put Cincinnati ahead with his first inning homer, but Pederson tied it 1-1 with a leadoff drive in the fourth, his second two games and 21st this season. Grandal hit a go-ahead double later in the inning, a ball caught by a young fan with a glove reaching over the wall with the ball still in play. Max Muncy scored from first and Reds manager Jim Riggleman argued unsuccessfully he should have been stopped at third, but the umpires' decision was upheld in a video review. Turner hit a two-run single in a four-run fifth.

### **BREWERS 5, CUBS 1**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Curtis Granderson homered, tripled and scored three runs, Lorenzo Cain added three hits and Milwaukee beat Chicago to move within a game of the NL Central lead.

Granderson also got three hits and Mike Moustakas had a two-run single for Milwaukee, which took two of three from the first-place Cubs. Josh Hader (6-1) struck out three in a scoreless eighth to get the win. Six Brewers pitchers combined to hold Chicago to six hits.

Kris Bryant had two hits and

drove in the Cubs' lone run. Granderson appeared to begin the game with his 48th career leadoff homer, but it was ruled a triple following an umpire review. Two batters later, Cain singled to drive in Granderson for the game's first run. Travis Shaw's sacrifice fly in the third gave the Brewers a 2-0 lead.

Kyle Hendricks (11-11) was the loser.

### **NATIONALS 5, PHILLIES 1**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Stephen Strasburg threw seven impressive innings, Bryce Harper, Ryan Zimmerman and Juan Soto homered and Washington beat Phil-

adelphia to complete a three-game sweep.

Even Cy Young Award contender Aaron Nola (16-5) couldn't end Philadelphia's skid. The Phillies have lost five in a row to drop 7 1/2 games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East with 17 to play. They're 11-23 since Aug. 5, when they had the NL's second-best record.

Harper crushed his 33rd homer, a two-run shot into Philadelphia's bullpen in the first to give the Nationals a 2-0 lead. Zimmerman connected in the fourth, sending a drive into the bushes in straightaway center. Odubel Herrera made a leaping attempt at the fence and nearly caught it. Soto drove one into the second deck in right field in the sixth off Austin Davis to make it 5-1. The 19-year-old rookie has 19 homers. Harper hit 22 homers as a teenager for the Nationals in 2012.

J.P. Crawford hit a solo shot in the fifth for Philadelphia's only run.

### **BRAVES 2, GIANTS 1**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Pinch-hitter Tyler Flowers drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth inning, and Atlanta moved closer to clinching the NL East.

San Francisco lost its 11th straight, the worst skid since the team moved to San Francisco and the longest for the franchise since 1951. Dan Winkler (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Jonny Venters worked a scoreless ninth for his second save. Will Smith (2-3) was the loser. □



# New head coaches go 0-7 in Week 1 of NFL season



Oakland Raiders head coach Jon Gruden answers questions during a news conference after an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams in Oakland, Calif., Monday, Sept. 10, 2018. Los Angeles won the game 33-13.

By **ROB MAADDI**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

New coach. Familiar results. Teams with a new man in charge went 0-7 in Week 1, the worst start by a group of new head coaches in NFL history. The previous worst was 0-6 in 2001. It took Aaron Rodgers coming back from a knee injury and leading the Packers back from a 20-0 deficit to spoil Matt Nagy's debut for Chicago. Jon Gruden returned to Oakland and his Raiders had a 13-10 half-time lead before the Los Angeles Rams turned it into a rout in the second half.

Matt Patricia endured the worst loss of the seven new guys when rookie Sam Darnold and the New York Jets whipped Detroit 48-17. The Lions can only hope Patricia fares better than other members of Bill Belichick's coaching tree did after leaving New England. Arizona's Steve Wilks didn't have a chance against Washington.

Andrew Luck's return for the Colts didn't help Frank Reich earn a win against the Bengals. Eli Manning's pick-6 ruined Pat Shurmur's opener with the Giants. Mike Vrabel and the Titans endured long weather delays in a loss at Miami. None of the seven teams play each other this week, so 0-2 is still on the table for all the new coaches.

**SO MUCH YELLOW:** The first weekend saw more penalties (255) and penalty yards (2,254) than any Week 1 since the NFL expanded to

32 teams in 2002. The Falcons led the way with 15 in an 18-12 loss to Philadelphia. The Eagles and three other teams had 11. The Steelers had 12. The Raiders had the most penalty yards with 155.

**SCORING OUTPUT:** The 765 total points were third-most in a Week 1. The Jets and Buccaneers led the way with 48 and the Ravens had 47.

**TAKE IT TO THE HOUSE:** The 12 return touchdowns in Week 1 were the second-most in an opening week since the 1970 merger. There were 13 in 2011. The Jets had two return touchdowns and became the third team to score a touchdown on a pass, rush, interception and punt return in an opener. The Dolphins and Titans had TD returns on kickoffs in the same game, the 10th time that's happened since the merger.

**DOWN TO THE FINISH:** Ten of the 16 games were decided by eight points or fewer and four teams — Cincinnati, Denver, Green Bay and Philadelphia — had comebacks in the fourth quarter.

**DO IT ALL:** Khalil Mack had his second game with a forced fumble, fumble recovery, pick-6 and sack in his first game for the Bears. He also did it against Carolina in 2016 while with Oakland. Charles Woodson in 2009 was the only other player to do it since sacks became an official stat.

**SIZING THINGS UP:** The Gi-

ants, Eagles and 49ers each have 13 players weighing less than 200 pounds. The Steelers have 14 players weighing more than 300 pounds.

**CRIMSON TIDE TAKEOVER:** Alabama led the way among colleges with 44 players on active rosters for Week 1. LSU was second with 40. Florida had 37, Miami and Ohio State each

had 36.

**MISLEADING STAT:** Tampa Bay allowed the second-most yards passing (475) but it doesn't mean the Bucs have the second-worst pass defense. The Buccaneers built a 24-point lead over New Orleans and forced Drew Brees to throw nearly every down to try to catch up. Tampa Bay held on for a 48-40 win.

**THAT'S SO BROWNS:** Since the merger, teams that are plus-five in turnover margin are 403-17-3. They're only 2-2-1 in those instances following a tie against the Steelers.

**AGE MATTERS:** The Raiders have the oldest team in the league with an average age of 27.6 years old. The Browns are the youngest at 25.2. □

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

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# Sharks acquire Erik Karlsson from Senators

By **JOSH DUBOW**  
AP Sports Writer

**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — The San Jose Sharks acquired two-time Norris Trophy-winning defenseman Erik Karlsson from the Ottawa Senators on Thursday, making a blockbuster addition to the roster after missing out on high-scoring center John Tavares in free agency. General manager Doug Wilson stood pat for most of the summer after Tavares signed with Toronto before pouncing when another superstar was available the day before San Jose opened training camp. Karlsson joins one of the top defensive groups in the league alongside 2017 Norris Trophy winner Brent Burns and shutdown defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic. "It's extremely rare that players of this caliber become available," Wilson said. "The word 'elite' is often thrown around casually but Erik's skillset and abilities fit that description like few other players in today's game. With Erik, Brent Burns and Marc-Edouard Vlasic, we feel we have three of



In this Jan. 30, 2018, file photo, Ottawa Senators' Erik Karlsson (65) moves the puck against the Carolina Hurricanes during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

the NHL's top defensemen and stand as a better team today than we were yesterday. We are thrilled to welcome Erik and his wife, Melinda, to San Jose." San Jose is sending the Senators a first-round pick in 2019 or 2020, a second-round pick in 2019, forwards

Chris Tierney, Josh Norris and Rudolfs Balcers, defenseman Dylan DeMelo and two conditional draft picks. The Sharks also get forward Francis Perron. Ottawa also gets a second-round pick in 2021 if Karlsson re-signs with the Sharks. That pick becomes a first if the Sharks

make the Stanley Cup Final in 2019. The Senators also will receive a first-rounder in 2021 or 2022 if Karlsson is on an Eastern Conference roster this season.

"Ultimately, to acquire a player like this, you have to give to get and we are losing some quality players but also some very good people," Wilson said. "All of the players leaving our organization have a very bright future in this league and we wish them all the best."

Karlsson, 28, has one year left on his contract and has been the subject of rumors dating to the trade deadline. The Senators finally got a deal done on the eve of training camp.

In Karlsson, whose 518 points are by far the most of any defenseman since he entered the NHL in 2009, San Jose gets the difference-maker it was hoping for when it pursued Tavares in free agency. Karlsson won the Norris as the league's best defenseman in 2012 and 2015.

"This is the right moment for us to rebuild our team,

and shape our future with a faster, younger and more competitive team on the ice," Senators general manager Pierre Dorion said. "We are going to build a culture of consistency which will allow this team to sustain better performance over the long term."

Karlsson had nine goals and 53 assists last season for Ottawa. He also led the team in average ice time (26:44, 3rd in the NHL), was second in blocked shots (120) and takeaways (55) and second in scoring with 62 points (nine goals, 53 assists). Karlsson also has six goals and 31 assists in 48 career playoff games.

It's just the latest big trade made by Wilson, who has also acquired Joe Thornton, Burns and Evander Kane in trades over the years.

The Sharks made the addition without giving up a top-six forward or top-four defenseman. The 24-year-old Tierney played the biggest role for San Jose of any of the players traded to Ottawa, spending much of the year as a third-line center. □

## Gretzky: NHL players in Olympics 'much better for everyone'



Former NHL hockey player Wayne Gretzky attends a promotional event for the Beijing Kunlun Red Star hockey team in his role as global ambassador for the team, part of the Russia-based Kontinental Hockey League, in Beijing, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

By **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**  
Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — Wayne Gretzky says the NHL should again allow its players to compete in the Winter Olympics because sending the world's top ice hockey players is "always much

better for everyone."

Speaking to The Associated Press on Thursday, the National Hockey League's all-time leading scorer said he hopes the league and players' association can "somehow figure this out" during upcoming talks.

Unwilling to break up the season, the NHL barred its players from playing in this year's Winter Games at Pyeongchang, South Korea. It's not clear whether the league will change its stance for the 2022 Games to be hosted by Beijing.

"I really think it's a real special stage. There's something really unique and special about playing for your country and there's nothing bigger than playing for your country in the Olympic Games," Gretzky said.

"So, you know with the Winter Olympics being here in China, it would be so wonderful for our sport worldwide and for the people of China to see the best players in the world on center stage."

Olympic ice hockey would still be exciting without the NHL, giving fans a chance

to see the best younger players in the world, he said, but added: "There's a different level. If we can send the best players in the game it's always much better for everyone."

He was in Beijing in his role as global ambassador for Beijing's two-year-old Kunlun Red Star of the Russia-based Kontinental Hockey League.

Though he said it may take years to truly establish ice hockey in China, he likened a local Winter Olympics to the catalyzing effect of the sport taking off in the U.S. following the underdog American team's famous win over the Soviet Union at the 1980 Games at Lake Placid.

"So I think the Red Star Kunlun team and what they're doing, along with the Winter Olympics in 2022, that hopefully will jumpstart this

sport of ours," he said. "And 30-40 years from now, we'll look back and say, 'You know what? That's where we started and that's where we were and that's where we are today.'"

Gretzky will also attend a preseason game between the Boston Bruins and Calgary Flames in the southern city of Shenzhen, marking the second consecutive year the NHL has played in China. A Summer Olympics superpower, China is spending heavily to promote hockey and other winter sports in hopes of leaving its mark on the Winter Games.

Gretzky declined to pick a favorite for this season's Stanley Cup winner, citing the high level of parity between the teams. At least 12 of the league's 24 teams have a shot at winning, he said. □



# Alvarez and Triple G promise knockout of a fight

By TIM DAHLBERG

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez had to follow a circus to town the first time they met a year ago.

The clown show by Floyd Mayweather Jr., and Conor McGregor a few weeks earlier cast a long shadow on a middleweight title bout that turned out to be quite a show itself. Golovkin and Alvarez put on a real fight that had a little bit of everything — except a winner.

The two return Saturday night for a rematch on the Las Vegas Strip that might be even better. The 160-pound titles are at stake once again as the two fighters try to settle what they couldn't in last September's draw.

And this time it's personal.

A failed drug test by Alvarez didn't just postpone the rematch from the original date in May. It sparked a debate that left Golovkin openly questioning an excuse about contaminated meat in Mexico and whether Alvarez was clean for their first fight.

"I don't believe all his stories about contaminated meat," Golovkin said this week. "I think it's all nonsense. I don't like to hear his nonsense stories about



Canelo Alvarez, left, speaks during a news conference as Gennady Golovkin listens Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

contaminated meat." Luckily for Golovkin, he hasn't had to listen. He and Alvarez have shared a room only once since the fight was announced — at Wednesday's final prefight press conference — and Alvarez is so upset about Golovkin's comments that he refused to do a traditional faceoff with Triple G for photographers.

When they finally do meet Saturday night it will be with

some hard feelings on both sides that didn't surface in the first fight.

"I'm angry but I'm going to use it in my favor in this fight," Alvarez said. "I'm bothered by all the stupid things they've been saying."

A fight that had to happen after the disputed draw in the first bout almost didn't come to be after Alvarez tested positive for clenbuterol just before begin-

ning training for what was supposed to be a May rematch. Alvarez was suspended by the Nevada Athletic Commission for six months, and then Golovkin's camp demanded a better split of the purse than he got for the first bout.

A last minute agreement resolved the purse split, with Triple G getting closer to the 50-50 he was demanding. And both fighters will make millions for a sold-out

fight that will be televised on HBO pay-per-view at a cost of \$84.95.

Now the rematch has to live up to the hype. That means both fighters will need to take more chances than in the first bout, which was close and entertaining but had no dramatic knockdowns or memorable big punches.

"I just want him (Alvarez) to do what he says he will do and try for a knockout," said Golovkin's trainer, Abel Sanchez. "If he does that we'll be treated to a great fight." Sanchez has carried much of the burden for the fight's promotion, as both fighters are more comfortable speaking in their native languages than in English. He's tried to bait Alvarez by claiming the Mexican fighter ran in the first fight and refused to engage Triple G, when in reality all Alvarez did was rely on his counter punching strength against the big puncher from Kazakhstan, who lives in Los Angeles.

"He's promised the fans he's going to knock him out, but in order to do that you have to be in range," Sanchez said. "In order to win a fight you have to want to win a fight. People aren't going to pay 90 bucks to see somebody run." □

## Wallays wins Vuelta stage, Yates leads before decisive tests

**LLEIDA, Spain (AP)** — Jelle Wallays won the Spanish Vuelta's flat 18th stage on Thursday, while Simon Yates held on to the overall lead ahead of two decisive days in the Pyrenees.

Wallays produced a long breakaway attack before edging out Sven Erik Bystrom and world champion Peter Sagan to win the 186-kilometer (116-mile) leg from Ejea de los Caballeros to Lleida in just under four hours.

The Belgian rider said the victory made up for not being selected by his Lotto Soudal team for the Tour de France in July.

"I worked very hard to be selected for the Tour de France," the 29-year-old Wallays said. "I didn't go there and then I worked for a stage win at La Vuelta and I got it. It's fantastic." Yates, who rides for Mitchelton-Scott, kept the red jersey for a fifth consecutive day, and eighth day in total.

He leads former Vuelta winner Alejandro Valverde by 25 seconds, with Enric Mas third at 1:22. Miguel Angel Lopez is fourth at 1:36, Steven Kruijswijk is fifth at 1:48 while Nairo Quintana is sixth at 2:11.

Yates called the uneventful

stage, which came a day after he lost time to Valverde in a grueling mountain test, "the easiest so far." He also said he would feel at home when the race has its last two key stages on the slopes of the tiny nation of Andorra in the Pyrenees.

"I've been living in Andorra for most of my professional career, since 2015," said the British rider. "I know the climbs very well. I think the two coming stages are going to be very difficult. I'm just trying to do my own race, I think I can win."

Friday's 154-kilometer stage starting in Lleida is flat un-



Mitchelton-Scott's Team Simon Yates of Great Britain, red shirt leader, is congratulated by La Vuelta staff member Oscar Pereiro at the end of the 17th stage between Getxo and Balcon de Vizcaya, 157 kilometers (97.55 miles), of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race that finishes in Balcon de Vizcaya, northern Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.

Associated Press

til an uphill finish. That will be followed by Saturday's short, but demanding, ride over six categorized climbs. The Grand Tour will finish

on Sunday with its traditional arrival into Madrid where riders honor the custom of not challenging the leader. □



# New Mexico sues mobile app makers over kid privacy concerns

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— New Mexico is suing Google, Twitter and other companies that develop and market mobile gaming apps for children, saying the apps violate state and federal laws by collecting personal information that could compromise privacy. The lawsuit filed in federal court late Tuesday comes as data-sharing concerns persist among users.

Social media giant Facebook just weeks ago pulled one of its own apps over possible privacy intrusions and a recent Associated Press investigation revealed that several Google apps and websites store user lo-



In this Jan. 29, 2015 file photo, New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas talks during a news conference in Albuquerque, N.M.

Associated Press

cation even if users have turned off location history. New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas said

he's concerned given that the apps can track with such precision where children live, play and go to school.

"These multi-million-dollar tech companies partnering with app developers are taking advantage of New Mexican children, and the unacceptable risk of data breach and access from third parties who seek to exploit and harm our children will not be tolerated in New Mexico," he said. The lawsuit accuses advertising businesses run by Google, Twitter and three other companies, along with the app maker Tiny Lab Productions, of violating a law meant to keep private the personal data of children under 13.

The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act adopted by Congress requires websites and online services to disclose what information they collect from children and how they use that information.

That disclosure must also be provided directly to parents and verified consent must be given. The lawsuit accuses the defendants of violating these federal mandates.

Google said in a statement Wednesday that apps included in its family program must comply with stringent policies that address age-appropriate ads and privacy disclosures. The company also said those apps must comply with the fed-

eral law.

The company said it is "constantly working to improve the program."

Twitter said Tiny Lab was suspended from its MoPub platform a year ago for violating policies regarding child-directed apps. That privacy policy does not permit MoPub Services to be used to collect information from apps directed to children under the age of 13 for purposes of personalized advertising.

On its website, Tiny Lab posted that the company is not violating federal privacy laws regarding children since it asks for the birth date of the user to determine their age according to federal guidelines.

If a user is under 13, none of the personal information is collected, it says. But the lawsuit argues that's not enough.

Tech companies are under increasing scrutiny over their data practices, following a series of privacy scandals at Facebook and new data-privacy rules recently adopted by the European Union.

Last year, the business news site Quartz found that Google was tracking Android users by collecting the addresses of nearby cellphone towers even if all location services were off. Google changed the practice and insisted it never recorded the data anyway. Critics have said Google's insistence on tracking its users stems from its drive to boost advertising revenue. It can charge advertisers more if they want to narrow ad delivery to people who've visited certain locations.

According to the lawsuit, Google was notified earlier this year by security researchers at the University of California-Berkeley that they had identified privacy-invasive technology and practices in Tiny Lab's gaming apps.

Google responded to the researchers, saying that the apps were not designed primarily for children, but for families in general so there were no violations of the federal privacy laws. □

## Leaked video: Google execs bemoan Trump election in 2016

By The Associated Press

A recently leaked video from 2016 shows Google executives lamenting the election of Donald Trump, who has accused the company of doctoring search results for his name. The video, posted on the Breitbart website, shows Google co-founder Sergey Brin saying that the elevation of Trump was not consistent with what the company stands for. During what was clearly an emotional and companywide meeting, Google executives also extolled democratic values.

Breitbart says the video was provided by an anonymous source.

Google said Thursday in a prepared statement that some workers and executives expressed their own personal views at the 2016 meeting - which is what has occurred at the regularly scheduled meetings for more than 20 years.

"Nothing was said at that meeting, or any other meeting, to suggest that any political bias ever influences the way we build or operate our products. To the contrary, our products are built for everyone,



In this March 12, 2016, file photo Google co-founder Sergey Brin speaks during a press conference after finishing the third match of the Google DeepMind Challenge Match in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

and we design them with extraordinary care to be a trustworthy source of information for everyone, without regard to political viewpoint," the company said.

At the meeting, executives talked about a rising xenophobia and nationalism at home and abroad. Some appeared near tears when they spoke about the U.S. election.

Last month Trump accused Google Inc. and other U.S. tech companies of rigging search results about him "so that almost all stories &

news is BAD."

Google, based in Mountain View, California, has consistently denied any political bias or consideration in developing the algorithms it uses for internet searches.

Republicans and conservative groups have alleged that there is a liberal bias in Silicon Valley and that companies such as Google, Facebook and Twitter actively work to suppress conservative views. The video fueled that narrative across social media. □



# US stocks jump as inflation slows; tech rebounds

By MARLEY JAY  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — U.S. stocks are climbing Thursday after the Labor Department said inflation slowed a bit in August. Technology companies like Apple and Microsoft made some of the largest gains after a recent bout of uncertainty, and chipmaker Qualcomm jumped after it announced a big stock repurchase.

Stock indexes in Turkey and other emerging markets rose after the Turkish central bank raised interest rates sharply in response to the nation's currency crisis.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 index gained 14 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,903 as of 12:15 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 139 points, or 0.5 percent, to 26,138. The Nasdaq composite jumped 69 points, or 0.8 percent, to 8,023. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 1 point, or 0.1 percent, to 1,717.

**TECH TUNAROUND:** Apple climbed 3.2 percent to \$228.24 and Microsoft added 1.1 percent to \$112.93. Technology companies slumped last week as investors worried about the prospect of heavier regulation for companies like Facebook and Alphabet.

The sector has bounced up and down this week, and it is about 1 percent away from the all-time high it set in late August.

Qualcomm rose 3.7 percent to \$74.43 after it announced a \$16 billion share buyback program. Other chipmakers including Skyworks and Broadcom also rose. They stumbled a day earlier.

**PRICES:** The Department of Labor said its index of consumer prices edged up 0.2 percent in August, and it's risen 2.7 percent over the past year. That's a bit slower than the 2.9 percent it reported in July. Investors have worried that faster inflation could threaten economic growth and the current bull market.

**MUST SEE:** Cable channel operator Discovery rose another 3.5 percent to



In this Aug. 22, 2018, file photo specialist Anthony Matesic, left, and trader Anthony Carannante work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

31.76. The stock jumped 7.7 percent Wednesday after the company announced a deal that will make more of its programming available on the streaming service Hulu.

**CLEANUP IN AISLE FOUR:** Supermarket company Kroger dropped 10.1 percent to \$28.54 after its sales fell short of Wall Street forecasts.

**TALKING TURKEY:** Turkey's central bank raised its key interest rate to 24 percent from 17.75 percent in an attempt to contain the nation's currency crisis as well as inflation. The Turkish lira rose 3.9 percent against the U.S. dollar and Turkey's main stock index gained 2.4 percent.

Experts have said that Turkey needed to raise interest rates, but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan repeatedly and publicly pushed it to keep rates low. That shook investors' confidence, as they grew worried about the bank's independence and Turkey's ability to react to rising inflation, slowing growth, and its diplomatic spat with the U.S.

The stock indexes of Argentina, Russia and Mexico also rose. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index jumped 2.5 percent after it fell for nine of the previous 10 days.

**DRUG DEVELOPMENT:** Progenics Pharmaceuticals sank 16.7 percent to \$6.08 after an imaging agent it is developing for use in the treatment of prostate cancer treatment failed in a clinical study.

Acorda Therapeutics dropped 4.3 percent to \$17.75 after announcing that the Food and Drug Administration will take three more months to review its inhaled Parkinson's disease treatment Inbrija.

The stock has plunged 36

percent over an eight-day losing streak. On Monday, the shares nosedived 25 percent after Acorda said an appeals court ruled that four patents on its drug Ampyra are not valid. That paves the way for other companies to launch generic versions of the drug, which is intended to help multiple sclerosis patients walk.

**INSURANCE ASSURANCE:** Insurance companies rose and reversed their recent loses as Hurricane Florence weakened somewhat. The slow-moving storm is expected to reach the East Coast Friday and might remain around the Carolinas for days, but investors figure

that it won't do as much damage and property insurers won't have to pay out as much as they had feared.

Allstate rose 1.2 percent to \$98.71 while Renaissance jumped 3.1 percent to \$131.49 and Everest Re climbed 2.6 percent to \$219.65.

**OVERSEAS:** The German DAX added 0.2 percent and France's CAC 40 slipped 0.1 percent. In Britain, the FTSE 100 fell 0.4 percent.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 1 percent and the South Korean Kospi rose 0.1 percent.

**CENTRAL BANKS:** The European Central Bank confirmed it will halve its bond-buying stimulus program, a step it announced earlier this summer. The Bank of England held off any changes to its policies as it monitors developments in the Brexit talks this fall.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude slid 2.3 percent to \$68.71 a barrel in New York. It jumped 4.3 percent Tuesday and Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 1.9 percent to \$78.20 a barrel in London.

**BONDS:** Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note stayed at 2.96 percent.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar rose to 111.90 yen from 111.22 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1674 from \$1.1632. □




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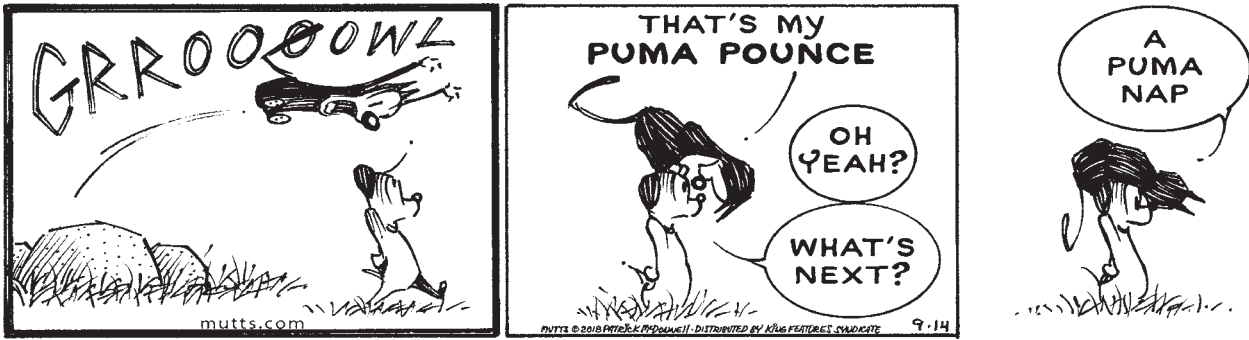
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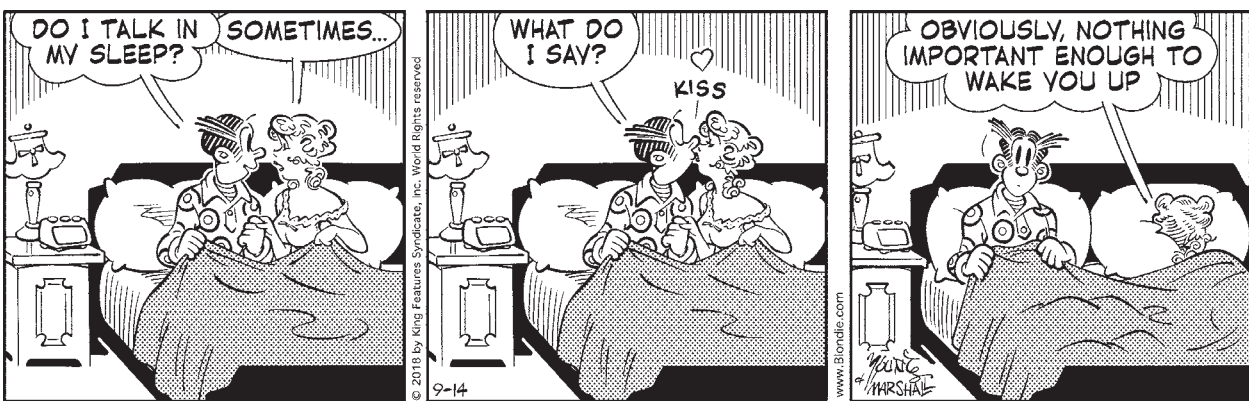
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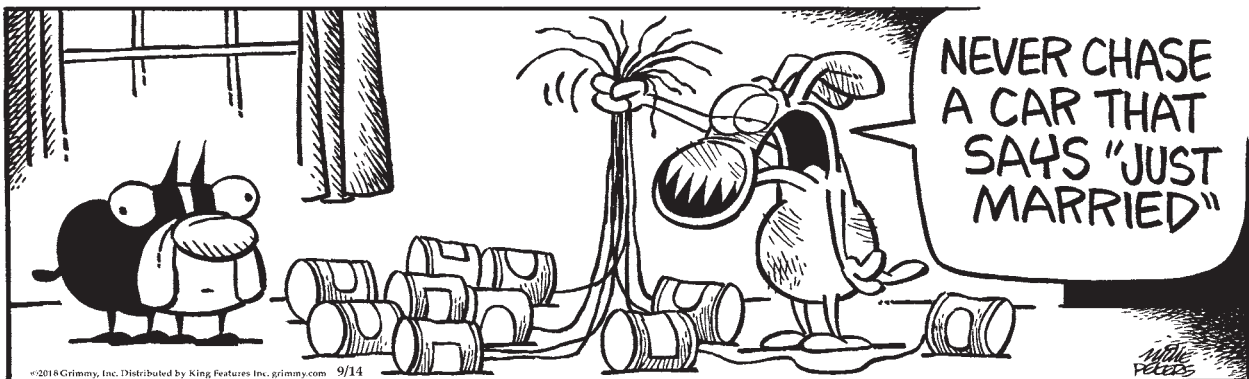
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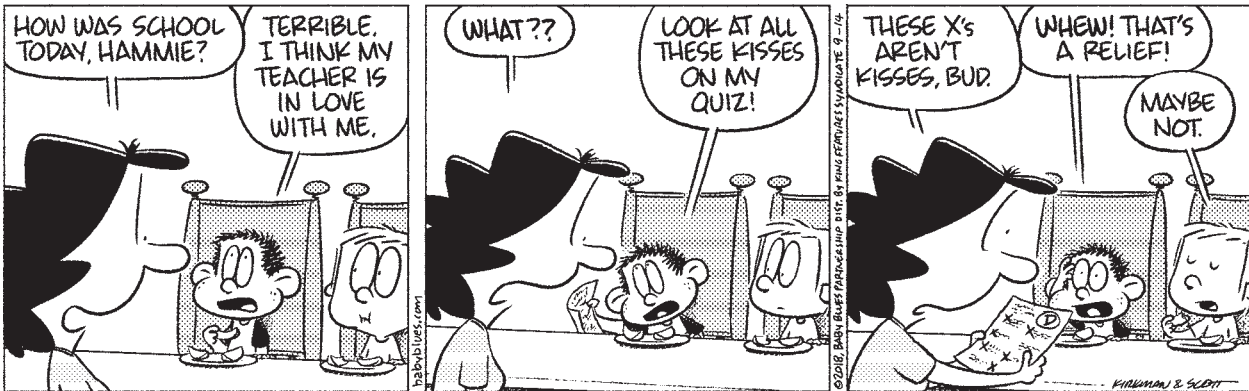
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2			4	1	7
	9			4	
1		7	3		
8		2	7	6	2
	1			3	
		9	4		8
	4			3	
5	7		6		1

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

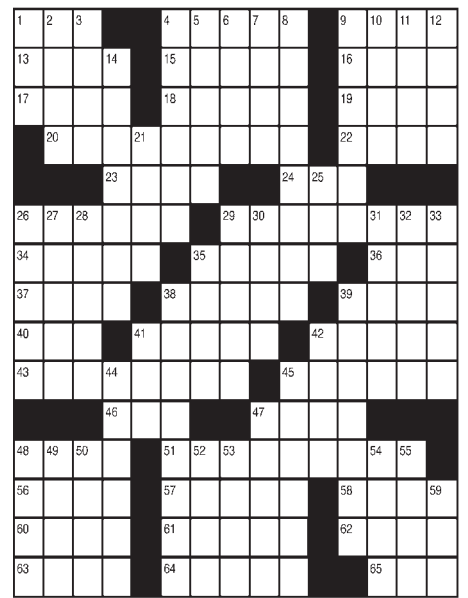
9/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	8	4	5	9	2	7	3	6
3	2	9	1	7	6	4	5	8
6	5	7	3	8	4	1	9	2
8	1	6	4	3	7	9	2	5
4	7	3	2	5	9	8	6	1
2	9	5	6	1	8	3	7	4
5	6	8	9	4	3	2	1	7
7	3	1	8	2	5	6	4	9
9	4	2	7	6	1	5	8	3

ACROSS

- 1 Peg for Trevino
- 4 Small outbuildings
- 9 Itchy red patch
- 13 Bran source
- 15 Couric or Holmes
- 16 Resound
- 17 Curved beam overhead
- 18 Worship
- 19 Recipe verb
- 20 Abbreviated
- 22 Peepers
- 23 Miser's
- 24 Dieter's concern: abbr.
- 26 Astute
- 29 Game bird
- 34 One's equals
- 35 Crummy
- 36 Cow's comment
- 37 "Heidi" setting
- 38 Farm buildings
- 39 Part of the ear
- 40 Bee's follower
- 41 Wallace & Farrell
- 42 Term of endearment
- 43 Expanded
- 45 Mishandle
- 46 Third most-populous nation: abbr.
- 47 Actress \_\_\_-Na Wen
- 48 Gambler's woe
- 51 Suer
- 56 Dines
- 57 Place for stray dogs
- 58 Ark builder
- 60 Language heard in Bangkok
- 61 Steel-tipped spear
- 62 Chess or dominoes
- 63 Certain
- 64 Word of welcome
- 65 French article



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/14/18

3 Carve in glass

4 Glided on ice

5 Underworld; hell

6 Prestigious British school

7 Crucial

8 Like easy-to-eat grapes

9 Break in a kid's school day

10 Sore

11 "If the \_\_\_ fits, wear it"

12 Beer ingredient

14 Brief rains

21 Uses an oar

25 Tampa \_\_\_

26 Part of NASA

27 Keller or Reddy

28 Fight off

29 \_\_\_ over; studied intently

30 Attila's men

31 In the midst of

32 \_\_\_ Peace Prize

33 See eye \_\_\_

35 Michigan or Tahoe

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

GRAY	APRON	SLOT
RACE	DIANA	PEAR
ARCS	DEGENERATE	
BEE	HATE	RINSE
LLAMA	CON	
STEINS	PISTOL	
ERRED	SPITE	BET
READ	SPICY	BLAH
BAT	STINK	NAIVE
DEACON	BERGEN	
BOW	PARKA	
CACAO	SEND	TUB
UNATTACHED	TOFU	
BONE	SIEVE	IRON
AXES	ADDED	CYST

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- 38 New York City
- 39 Strong desire
- 41 Sra. or Mme.
- 42 Look high and low
- 44 Sydney native
- 45 Loose-leaf \_\_\_
- 47 Chop finely
- 48 "Why don't we!"
- 49 Waikiki's island
- 50 Celebrity
- 52 Money lent
- 53 Dad's sister
- 54 Barn newborn
- 55 Renown
- 59 "For \_\_\_ a jolly good fellow..."





In this July 17, 2012, file photo, adult female walrus rest on an ice flow with young walrus in the Eastern Chukchi Sea, Alaska. Associated Press

# Thousands of Pacific walrus again herd up on Alaska coast

By DAN JOLING  
Associated Press

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)** — Thousands of Pacific walrus have again gathered on the northwest shore of Alaska as the Chukchi Sea approaches its annual sea ice minimum.

Residents of the Inupiaq village of Point Lay on Aug. 22 reported hearing walrus, said Andrea Medeiros, spokeswoman in Alaska for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Spotters taking part in an annual aerial marine mammal survey on Aug. 30 photographed walrus on a barrier island near Point Lay. An estimated 25,000 animals were there, Medeiros said.

"The herd is 2 to 3 miles (3

to 5 kilometers) north of the old village site on the island," Medeiros said. "We are monitoring the herd with the help of local people and U.S. Geological Survey staff who are on site doing research."

Walrus over the last decade have come to shore on the Alaska and Russia sides of the Chukchi Sea as sea ice diminishes because of global warming.

Walrus use sea ice to rest as they dive to the ocean floor to hunt for clams and snails. When ice recedes north of the shallow continental shelf, walrus head to beaches to rest.

The animals lie shoulder to shoulder and can be startled by a polar bear, airplane or hunter. □

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# Calling teen vaping 'epidemic,' officials weigh flavor ban

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. health officials are sounding the alarm about teenage use of e-cigarettes, calling the problem an "epidemic" and ordering manufacturers to reverse the trend or risk having their flavored vaping products pulled from the market. The warning from the Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday cited recent data pointing to a sharp rise in underage use of the devices, including Juul, Vuse and others.

It marks a shift in the agency's tone on e-cigarettes. Since 2017, FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb has discussed e-cigarettes as a potential tool to wean adult smokers off cigarettes, although that benefit hasn't been proven.

But Gottlieb said in an address at FDA headquarters that he failed to predict the current "epidemic of addiction" among youth, mainly driven by flavored products.

"The disturbing and accelerating trajectory of use we're seeing in youth and the resulting path to addiction must end," Gottlieb told agency staffers and reporters. The FDA said it remains committed to exploring e-cigarettes as a less-harmful alternative for adult smokers, but Gottlieb added "that work can't come at the expense of kids."

E-cigarettes are vapor-emitting devices that have grown into a multi-billion dollar industry in the U.S. despite little research on their long-term effects, including whether they are helpful in helping smokers quit. They're generally considered a less dangerous alternative to regular cigarettes. But health officials



This Dec. 4, 2013 file photo shows vials of flavored liquid at a store selling electronic cigarettes and related items in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

have warned nicotine in e-cigarettes is harmful to developing brains.

They typically contain nicotine, and sometimes flavorings like fruit, mint or chocolate.

Health advocates have worried about the popularity of vaping products among kids and the potential impact on smoking rates in the future. A government-commissioned report in January found "substantial evidence" that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to try cigarettes.

Gottlieb cited unreleased federal figures that he says will be made public in coming months.

"We didn't foresee the extent of what's now be-

come one of our biggest challenges," he said, in prepared remarks. "Hindsight, and the data that's now available to us, fully reveal these trends."

In June, a government survey found teen vaping seemed to be holding steady last year. Some experts were cautious about the results, however. They noted the survey did not ask specifically about Juul, a sleek, heavily-marketed e-cigarette brand that exploded onto the market and accounts for 70 percent of U.S. sales, according to analyst estimates.

"I think it became clear to FDA that if they didn't get their arms around this issue the use of these products by kids across the nation would undo decades of progress," said Matthew Myers of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. His group and several others are suing the FDA over a decision to delay federal review of most e-cigarettes. Under regulations developed by the Obama administration, manufacturers were supposed to submit

most products for review by August 2018. But last year Gottlieb delayed the deadline until 2022, saying both the agency and industry needed more time to prepare.

The decision was criticized by anti-smoking advocates who say e-cigarette makers are targeting kids with candy flavors and marketing that portrays their products as flashy, hand-held gadgets.

Under Wednesday's announcement, the five largest e-cigarette manufacturers will have 60 days to produce plans to stop underage use of their products. The companies sell Vuse, Blu, Juul, MarkTen XL, and Logic e-cigarette brands, which account for 97 percent of U.S. e-cigarette sales, according to FDA.

If the plans fall short, the FDA could block sales of the products by enforcing a requirement that companies provide detailed design and health data about their products before marketing them. The FDA's delay on that re-

quirement has allowed the industry to flourish with little oversight. But it's not clear how quickly the decision could be reversed.

Wells Fargo analyst Bonnie Herzog said Juul is the brand "most at risk" from an FDA crackdown and that a potential ban on the company's products would boost Altria and other cigarette makers that also sell e-cigarettes.

Shares of Big Tobacco companies surged in trading Wednesday. Altria Group Inc. and British American Tobacco Plc had the biggest one-day percentage gain in about a decade.

San Francisco-based Juul said it is working to prevent underage use of its products but added that flavors can help adult smokers quit.

"By working together, we believe we can help adult smokers while preventing access to minors," the company said in a statement.

The FDA also announced 1,300 warning letters and fines to online and traditional stores that have illegally sold Juul and other e-cigarettes to minors. Regulators said it was the largest coordinated crackdown in the agency's history.

The FDA is in the process of rolling out a sweeping anti-smoking initiative designed to make it easier for smokers to quit by cutting the nicotine levels in regular cigarettes. As part of that plan, Gottlieb has suggested some smokers could be directed toward alternative products that deliver nicotine without the carcinogens of cigarettes. Those products could include e-cigarettes, though the FDA has not given any company permission to advertise its device as a quit-smoking aid.

On Wednesday, Gottlieb criticized e-cigarette companies' handling of the underage use problem, saying they approached it as "a public relations challenge rather than seriously considering their legal obligations."

"I'm here to tell them today that this prior approach is over," he said. □



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# Eurovision says Tel Aviv will host 2019 song contest

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — The Eurovision Song Contest announced Thursday that next year's competition will be held in Tel Aviv, clearing up some of the political controversy surrounding Israel's hosting of the 2019 competition.

The Israeli government had initially insisted on holding the popular event in Jerusalem. But following a backlash over the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as its capital and a subsequent fear of boycotts it dropped the demand to host the world's largest live music event. The Eurovision said it chose Tel Aviv, Israel's cultural and commercial epicenter, over Jerusalem and the southern city of Eilat because of its "creative and compelling bid."

"Eurovision is a perfect fit for our city, which has been internationally acclaimed for its vibrant energy, creative spirit, its lively cultural scene and its celebration of freedom," said Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai. "We are looking forward to host a joyful and nonstop event in the spirit



In this May 12, 2018 file photo, Netta Barzilai from Israel celebrates after winning the Eurovision song contest in Lisbon, Portugal.

Associated Press

of Tel Aviv."

Israel won the Eurovision this year with a flashy pop tune called "Toy" by the charismatic, previously unknown singer Netta Barzilai, who dazzled viewers with her feminist lyrics, unconventional appearance and signature chicken dance. Her victory earned Israel

the right to host next year's contest.

In Europe, capital cities have usually played host. But the city Israel considers its capital is not recognized as such by most of the international community. Hosting the competition in Jerusalem could have presented a predicament

for the public broadcasters that make up the European Broadcasting Union, sparking criticism that they would be taking sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Palestinian-led BDS campaign — which advocates boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel — called for the Eurovision

contest to be boycotted altogether if it is held in Israel.

Omar Barghouti, the organization's co-founder, said Eurovision's decision "dealt a severe blow" to Israel's "illegal claim of sovereignty over the city," and called for the Tel Aviv event to be boycotted "as there should be no business as usual with Israeli apartheid."

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed the area in a move that is not internationally recognized. Israel considers the entire city to be its capital, while the Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state.

Israel held the Eurovision contest in Jerusalem without incident following its previous victories, most recently in 1999. Israel's outspoken culture and sports minister, Miri Regev, lobbied hard for Jerusalem again, saying Israel, and no one else, should decide where the event should take place. She recommended Israel not host the Eurovision at all if Jerusalem was not chosen. □

# X Japan hopes new album will lead to elusive success in West

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — Legendary Japanese rock band X Japan is hoping its new album will find success in the U.S. now that there is more interest in the West in music from Asia.

X Japan leader Yoshiki said Thursday that America wasn't ready for Asian rock music when he moved there 25 years ago, but now people there seem to enjoy pop and rock from Japanese, South Korean and Chinese artists.

"Of course I had a dream ... we wanted to be the biggest rock stars in the world but 25 years ago they were not ready at all," Yoshiki said at a Tokyo news conference. In the U.S. map of rock and pop music, Asia didn't exist, he said.

"I'm going to contribute to changing the map of



Japanese rock star Yoshiki poses during a Press conference in Tokyo, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

the entertainment industry in the world," said Yoshiki, who uses one name.

The market is already changing. South Korean

boy band BTS and some other K-pop groups have already achieved a following in the U.S.

"Finally, after all these years,

if there is a wall in between the east and the west, the wall has become much thinner and smaller," Yoshiki said.

After debuting in 1982, the group surged to stardom in Japan, and even former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was a big fan. Their U.S. debut a decade later was a disappointment in part because of the language barrier. The group broke up in 1997 after its main vocalist, Toshi, became influenced by a cult and left, and guitarist Hide hung himself a year later. The group reunited in 2007 with Toshi and new members. Yoshiki spoke at a news conference promoting the band's first studio album since "Dahlia" in 1996, as well as upcoming concerts. No release date has been set for the still-unnamed album, which took 10 years to complete. "I'd like to compose music that lasts for a hundred years," like Mozart and Beethoven, Yoshiki said. □



# Don't tell Oprah: 'A Million Little Pieces' is now a movie

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — James Frey's "A Million Little Pieces," once one of the most toxic properties in Hollywood, has been reborn on the big screen thanks to director Sam Taylor-Johnson and her actor husband, Aaron, whom she wrote it with.

In even a movie world where "based on a true story" often has elastic meaning, a film about "A Million Little Pieces" is a surprise. After Frey admitted to partially fabricating or embellishing parts of his 2003 memoir about drug addiction and rehabilitation, Oprah Winfrey, who had include Frey's book in her book club, memorably chastised him on television. The book's publisher, Doubleday, offered refunds to readers and in future editions included an author's note acknowledging distortions.

But for Taylor-Johnson, who helmed the adaptation of another best seller ("Fifty Shades of Grey"), there was still truth in "A Million Little



In this Sept. 6, 2018 file photo, director Sam Taylor-Johnson, left, and her actor husband Aaron Taylor-Johnson attend the gala for "Outlaw King" at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. Associated Press

Pieces."

"It was really storytelling," the 51-year-old British director said in an interview. "It's his journey, from where he is now however many years later, having been through

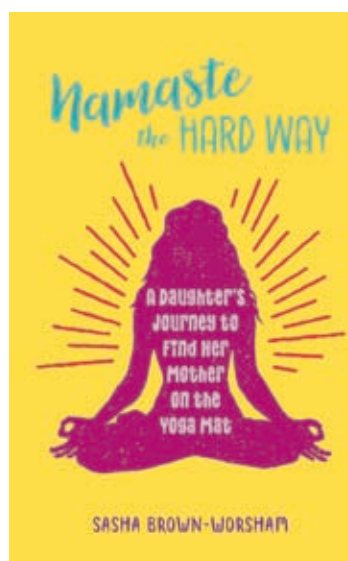
the ringer in so many different ways. That's the thing that I hold true: James' sobriety from where he began to where he is now."

"A Million Little Pieces" made its debut at the Toronto International Film Festival where it's seeking distribution. That it got this far is purely because of Taylor-Johnson's dedication to it. She and Aaron wrote the script on spec (without financing or producers lined up) and Frey granted them the film rights. Warner Bros. initially won the rights in a bidding war, with Brad Pitt's Plan B to produce. But following Frey's disgrace, the movie rights were returned to the author.

Taylor-Johnson's production was far from such a heavyweight operation as was first planned. After raising the money, she shot it in 20 days. □

## Author chronicles her coming of age in memoir

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This cover image released by Health Communications, Inc., shows "Namaste the Hard Way: A Daughter's Journey to Find Her Mother on the Yoga Mat," by Sasha Brown-Worsham.

Associated Press

By TRACEE M. HERBAUGH

Associated Press

"Namaste the Hard Way: A Daughter's Journey to Find Her Mother on the Yoga Mat" (HCI), by Sasha Brown-Worsham

A girl's emotional connection to her mom never stops

evolving, even decades after the mother dies.

Sometimes the thing that was fraught in a mother-daughter relationship later turns out to be a source of strength.

Such is a theme in Sasha Brown-Worsham's memoir, "Namaste the Hard Way." Brown-Worsham chronicles her coming of age, from a young girl growing up in an upper middle class neighborhood near Dayton, Ohio, to her adulthood living with a husband and children in the suburbs of New York City.

As a child, Brown-Worsham was embarrassed by her mother's Sanskrit chanting, middle-of-the-day yoga poses and flowing linen pants. But as an adult, long after her mother's death from cancer, Brown-Worsham gravitated to the very thing that pricked the unease of her adolescence. Yoga became the way she reconnected with the mother she lost as a teen. Yoga helped her heal.

"I am playing with discomfort on my mat so I can deal with what happens off the mat as well," Brown-Worsham writes.

The book was conceived following a widely shared essay that Brown-Worsham wrote for The New York Times titled, "Not my Mother's Yoga."

The author works in her own adventures in parenting and how having children helped put her mother in a more favorable light.

"There is danger every day of turning a dead woman into a saint, of making my mother into someone with no flaws ... even 24 years after her death," she writes. "I am still chasing her ghost and it's not because she is a perfect human or mother."

The memoir is one of many released of late that depict a woman's experience coming into adulthood. Readers of this genre, especially those interested in yoga, will find the book's messages resonate. □



# From 'Murphy Brown' to le Carre, 6 new shows worth watching

By LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

There's more new television to watch than is humanly possible. But everyone has to make a time-allocation decision in the end, and that's what we're here to help with.

Consider the list below a tip sheet to get you going on the fall TV season. Each of the six shows has something of note to offer, and some have the potential to be season (or beyond) stand-outs. Happy viewing, and the snacks are on you.

"MURPHY BROWN"

The unexpected success of "Roseanne" last season (before its sudden implosion due to star Roseanne Barr) would be enough to make this revival intriguing as another onetime TV hit eager to prove its relevance.

The original CBS sitcom starring Candice Bergen as a broadcast TV news anchor and reporter was unabashedly in the middle of politics and social issues when it aired from 1988-98, including going toe-to-toe with Vice President Dan Quayle over unwed motherhood.

Creator Diane English has said it was the chance to weigh in on Trump-era politics that persuaded her to put Murphy back to work, this time on the cable news side and with a bone to pick about so-called "fake news." She's joined by her former colleagues including Corky (Faith Ford), Frank (Joe Regalbuto) and Miles (Grant Shaud).

Do we sense a real-world Twitter storm gathering on the horizon? The show debuts 9:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 27.

"THE ROMANOFFS"

The Amazon Prime Video drama series makes the cut even without virtue of an early screening, thanks both to its pedigree and ambitions. It was created, written, directed and produced by Matthew Weiner of "Mad Men" glory and marks his return to series TV after his Emmy-showered drama ended in 2015.

An eight-episode anthology series, "The Romanoffs" promises a kaleidoscope of tales about people who



This image released by Amazon Studios shows Kerry Bishe in a scene from "The Romanoffs," premiering on Oct. 12.

Associated Press

fancy themselves descendants of the royal Russian family that fell victim to revolution. The cast changes from episode to episode, starting with Marthe Keller and Aaron Eckhart in "The Violet Hour" and Corey Stoll and Kerry Bishe in "The Royal We."

"The Romanoffs" was shot on location in Europe, the Americas and Asia. Fair to say the bar is set for high — if not excessive — expectations. The first two episodes debut Friday, Oct. 12.

"MY BRILLIANT FRIEND"

HBO's first non-English language series is based on the internationally best-selling novel of the same name, the first of four books by Elena Ferrante. That's a pen name for the author who's remained anonymous, creating as much a sensation for that choice as for the acclaimed saga of two women starting in their 1950s childhood in Naples, Italy.

The production is impressive, from the casting of the actresses playing friends

Elena and Lila as girls (newcomers Elisa Del Genio and Ludovica Nasti) and as teenagers (Margherita Mazzucco, Gaia Girace) to its re-creation of the tough, unforgiving neighborhood that served as their incubator.

There's fidelity to the novel overall in the episode provided, a promising start for the extended series that will adapt the novels in full and which, hopefully, will air here. This season's eight episodes are coming in November (date to be announced).

"WARRIORS OF LIBERTY CITY" The Starz documentary series has the power of fiction and beyond, delving into American lives rarely seen on TV.

Miami's disadvantaged Liberty City neighborhood is home to a youth football program, founded by 2 Live Crew frontman and activist Luther "Uncle Luke" Campbell, that's helped launch Antonio Brown, Teddy Bridgewater and others into NFL careers.

While the twin football controversies of kneeling and concussions play out at a distance, the series provides intimate glimpses of Liberty City Warriors players on and off the field as they pursue the distant dream of a pro career and, more immediately, a winning season.

Their grit is impressive and touching, but it's framed by the burdens of poverty, violence and lack of educational opportunities. Campbell's program provides academic tutoring and tries to instill a work ethic that can serve beyond football, but who else is rooting for them?

The six-episode series created and directed by Evan Rosenfeld had a powerful ally: LeBron James was among its executive producers. It debuts 8 p.m. EDT Sunday, Sept. 16.

"THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT"

This comedy fits snugly into ABC's ethnic-family folio that includes "black-ish," "The Goldbergs" and "Fresh Off the Boat." But

the newcomer about a working-class, Irish-Catholic family in the 1970s isn't riding anyone's coattails: It's sharply written, charming and boasts laugh-out-loud scenes.

Created by Tim Doyle, whose background mirrors that of the fictional Clearys, "The Kids Are Alright" gives the lovingly strict parents of eight (well-cast) sons their dignity as well as foibles as they navigate parenthood in a tumultuous decade.

Mary McCormack and Michael Cudlitz are actors best known for drama but shine as mom and dad, with McCormack getting the best punchlines in the debut episode and delivering them with aplomb. A sample: "We do not have the wherewithal in this family for any of you kids to be special." Begins 8:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Oct. 16.

"THE LITTLE DRUMMER GIRL"

For fans of the gripping, hugely entertaining "The Night Manager" that aired on AMC in 2016, there's reason for celebration: executive producers of the Emmy Award-winning series based on a John le Carre novel are behind this le Carre adaptation.

The six-part miniseries stars Alexander Skarsgard ("Big Little Lies," "True Blood") and English actress Florence Pugh ("Lady Macbeth") in a 1970s tale of espionage and intrigue. He's a mystery man, she's an actress with secrets of her own, and hovering over all is spy mastermind Kurtz (Michael Shannon, "The Shape of Water"). As with any respectable international thriller, it was filmed on location in scenic locations including London, Prague and (bonus!) at the Acropolis and Temple of Poseidon in Athens.

There's another notable producer besides Simon and Stephen Cornwell of the Emmy-winning "Night Manager": le Carre himself, the pen name for 86-year-old author David Cornwell. "The Little Drummer Girl" was published in 1983; his most recent book, "A Legacy of Spies," was released last year. The drama airs Nov. 19-21. □



# Talking gloves, tactile windows: new tech helps the disabled

By **DANICA KIRKA**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Hadeel Ayoub slips a black glove onto her hand before beginning the swish of sign language that is meaningless to the untrained observer. Then she pushes a button on her wrist, and a small speaker relays the message drawn in the air: "Let's Dance!"

"My dream is to give a voice to those who can't speak," says the 36-year-old inventor who is developing her BrightSign glove while working toward a Ph.D. in assistive technology at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Ayoub's glove is just one example of a bigger trend as entrepreneurs, startups and companies like Microsoft and Google try to harness the power of artificial intelligence to make life easier for people with disabilities. The initiatives come as the World Health Organization estimates that the number of people needing assistive devices ranging from wheelchairs to communication technologies will double to 2 billion by 2050. Improvements in artificial intelligence, combined with the decreasing cost of hardware, are making it possible for inventors to develop new products without the need for the deep pockets of governments or corporations. With the help of 3D printers and the increased processing power of home computers, they are creating devices designed for people with motor, vision, hearing and cognitive impairments.

Microsoft and Google are trying to spur work in this area, offering a total of \$45 million in grants to developers of assistive technologies. Microsoft says it hopes to identify promising projects that can eventually be incorporated into widely available services.

"We're certainly seeing an explosion of new technology that is looking to support people with disabilities," said Zvika Krieger, head of technology policy and partnerships at the World Economic Forum. "There are a lot of innovators out



**Paul Bepey uses a phone app created by Microsoft to audibly describe a drink in a can during an interview with The Associated Press at Microsoft offices in London, Friday, July 27, 2018.**

Associated Press

there ... who are looking to move beyond maybe a dating app or a social networking app and are looking to do something that really helps the disadvantaged."

While Ayoub hopes her efforts pay off financially, she says she is driven by a desire to create a world where disabilities become meaningless. She is trying to raise 1 million pounds to bring BrightSign to the market, estimating her gloves will cost "a few hundred

dollars" each, compared with \$2,000 or more for existing technology.

"My dream for BrightSign is to be the extension of the senses for the people ... who want to voice their feelings and opinions without having to always look for someone to help them out — to give them the independence that they need and control over their own communication," she said.

The need for such products is only going to increase

as the world's population ages, increasing the number of people with physical, cognitive, vision and hearing problems, according to a WHO report published this year. The challenge is to develop new technologies while also increasing the availability of simple devices like spectacles and wheelchairs that many people can't afford.

Companies are starting to recognize the financial potential of the market, as these innovations can im-

prove products sold more widely, said Hector Minto, who has the unusual title of "accessibility evangelist" at Microsoft.

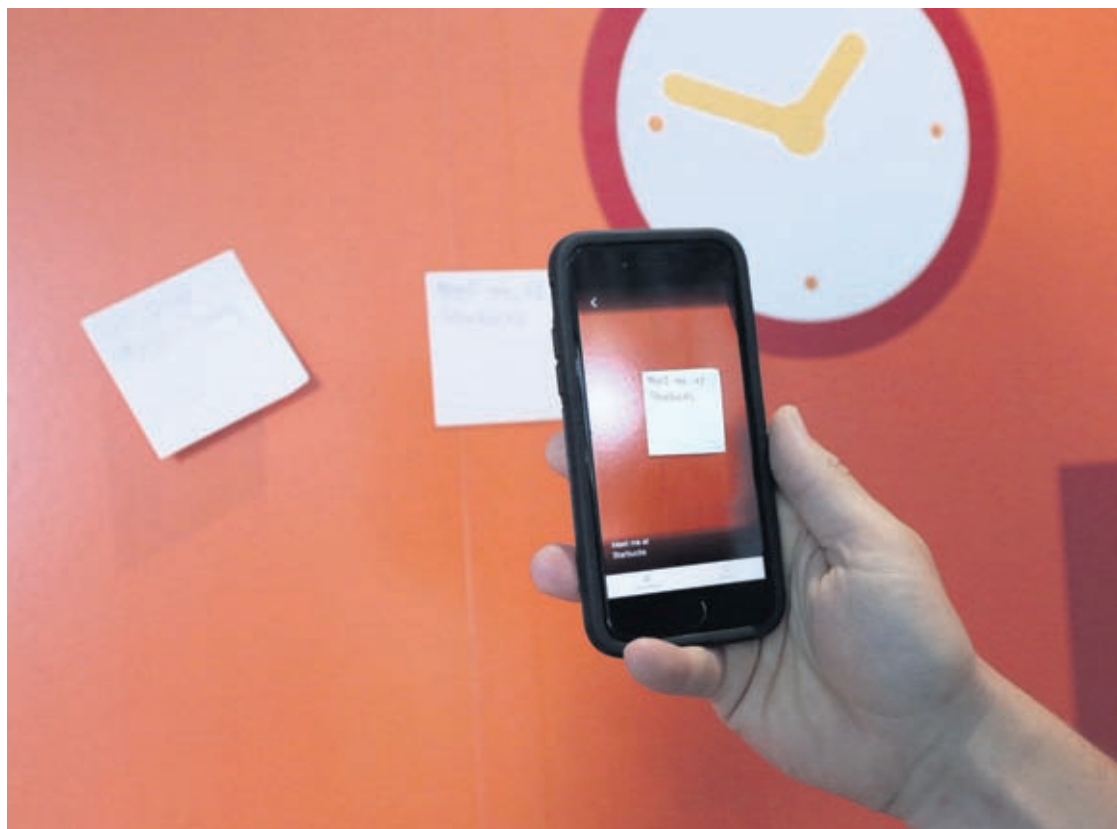
For example, Microsoft last year launched its free Seeing AI app, which turns a smart phone into a "talking camera" that helps visually impaired people do things like scan and read aloud text, recognize faces and identify products bar codes. Similar technology goes into the company's text Translator service, which costs businesses \$10 to \$45,000 a month, depending on the number of transactions.

"Absolutely I think there's a unique business case on its own, but definitely there's a much larger business case for Microsoft in that the tools of the future quite often will come through a disability lens," he said.

It's important to remember that all of us have impairments at times, says Robin Christopherson, head of digital inclusion at the British charity AbilityNet, which helps older people and the disabled use computers.

He explains it like this: a person with perfect sight might have a visual impairment when trying to read a smart phone in bright sunlight, or a person with perfect hearing can struggle to understand a phone call when on the street outside. As a result, technology that helps people with permanent vision or hearing problems also makes products better for everyone. In the past five years, AbilityNet's team of experts who test products to ensure they work well for the disabled has grown from six people to 22.

Innovation has not yet produced products good enough to offer complete freedom for the impaired, said Tom Kamber, executive director of Brooklyn-based Older Adults Technology Services, a non-profit that helps the elderly use technology. But there is reason for optimism because investors are actively looking for the next big thing in technology, he said. □



**Hector Minto, a Senior Technology accessibility evangelist at Microsoft, demonstrates an app that can audibly describe a handwritten note during an interview with The Associated Press, at Microsoft offices in London, Friday, July 27, 2018.**

Associated Press